



Floral Park Fire Department

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John Florio Sr.
Chief of Department

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1st. Asst. Chief -EMT *2nd Asst. Chief -EMT* *3rd Asst. Chief* *4th. Asst. Chief*

January 2017

To: MTA/LIRR

From: Chief John Florio

Re: Floral Park Fire Department Safety Concerns Regarding the Third Track

Floral Park Fire Department is sworn to protect and serve the resident of Floral Park. We also provide 24/7 mutual aid between our neighboring departments and ours. We achieve this goal through the dedicated hard work of volunteer residents who respond 24 hours a day seven days a week from all directions in town. We are extremely concerned about the impact this project will have on our ability to respond to the fire house and get out in a reasonable efficient time to do our job. This project will affect the heart of the village around the Floral Park station and lines east from there and will affect our ability to respond through main arteries in this village to reach areas we cover. This great village has a large percentage of elderly and seasoned citizens who need our ambulance ready to go maned quickly in an emergency and able to respond and reach its destination in a very efficient manner. That coupled with the need to respond to the hospital in a matter of minutes for certain emergencies could be seriously inhibited on any given day depending on what the secret construction plan entails. Our ability to respond can be further inhibited by the traffic jams and rerouted traffic flow during the construction. No plan has been set forth to determine what this could possibly do to our response other than create road blocks and problems and inhibit our ability to effectively respond to emergencies.

Your schedule calls for 556 days for the Floral Park station to South 8th Street with 320 days for South Tyson and 180 days for Plainfield. It is our understanding these are being done simultaneously? If simultaneously you are cutting off access to half our village and seriously delaying our response to any emergency. These are also main access routes to both primary hospitals. How can you provide a schedule and ensure minimal interruptions or even be sure this will work when you have not contacted the fire departments or had any sit down to work together and make a plan to deal with this. This cuts off half the village to vital lifesaving equipment.

As for the construction itself, what materials and equipment will be brought into the village? Will there be hazardous and or flammable materials in the village during this project? Will there be a storage site in town at the beginning area of the track exposing us to long term hazards that are just a spark away? We saw firsthand in NYC on the evening of May 16th were gas fell on a generator at a construction site under the elevated train on Broadway up town and caused a huge fire which created a ripple effect in transportation for days and days. What are the plans for construction storage and staging areas? Safety should be priority one!

This construction will require heavy equipment, drilling and disruption of the ground. Has there been any assessment of the infrastructure and the expected disruption? What will the effect be on existing gas and water lines and possible leaks and problems this may cause? Where will this equipment operate? Will roads be closed as a result? All these issues effect our ability to respond in a timely effective manner. Safety should be priority one!

As you can see, there are many unanswered questions and serious concerns, only some of which are mentioned here, that will have an impact on the protection and well-being of the residents of Floral Park, our neighboring villages, and our brother and sisters protecting them around us. This project is not in our best interest.