

I want to thank Ms. Black, Picca and Messrs. McCarthy, Garcia, Eng and the others that met with Floral Park regarding the Expansion Project.

In all of the meetings, we never said we were against the project but that we need information to present to our residents, to explain the impact of the project on Floral Park so we could make plans to mitigate those impacts. We were told that the scoping document and then the DEIS would answer our questions. We were told that the RR, MTA and Governor were listening to our concerns, that they would work with us and that our concerns would be addressed.

I went back to my comments during the Scoping Comment Period and asked the same questions I ask today. Simple comments with simple questions, HOW, WHEN & WHERE.

We asked that the construction move east to west so that any glitches in the project would be worked out before the project got to the congested areas. We asked that work on South Tyson and Plainfield Avenues not be done at the same time due to traffic concerns and that S. Tyson not be done during the school year. We asked that construction not occur near our rec center in the summer.

The DEIS did not address our concerns. The DEIS informs us that work at S. Tyson and Plainfield Avenues would begin at the beginning of the Project and would run concurrently for 180 days. Work that will cripple traffic on two of the main roads in

our Village for half a year. That S. Tyson work would take approximately 320 days impacting at least 1 ½ school years. How will school buses bring the children to school? How will fire, police and other emergency vehicles respond? The DEIS also informs us that track and retaining wall work near the rec center would run 2-3 summer seasons.

We asked that our RR station be made ADA compliant. The DEIS says that no work is planned at the Station except for shaving a few inches off the platform.

We asked that construction noise be limited and while the DEIS states that work would be done within hours specified in local ordinances, it adds the catch all, “except where not feasible”. It states “that noisy activities in residential areas would be avoided in overnight hours”, but adds “to the maximum extent practical”. If feasibility or practicality is something only decided by the Contractor who will earn incentives for doing the job fast; that is not working with us or addressing our concerns.

I asked at our first meetings and all subsequent meetings that a survey showing the ROW and any possible temporary working easements be shown to us. While no residential takings have been promised, the DEIS states that a number of temporary easements would be required during the construction period as determined by the

design-build contractor. Again, the contractor with monetary incentives will make that determination.

The 3 ledger size pages I am holding up is the survey that was in the DEIS showing Floral Park.

The scroll (approx. 25 feet long) being held up is what the RR presented Floral Park when the Elevation of the tracks was being planned over 50 years ago. Back then, the RR showed us working easements, what the project and its impacts were, yet is unable to show us any detail now.

The DEIS is required to inform us as to the impacts the project is going to have with a great deal of specificity. As an elected official, I am unable to explain whose property might be needed for temporary easements, I can not tell them if there will be noise at night or when school is in session. With no traffic plans divulged to us, I am unable to explain to businesses, residents, emergency responders how they will travel through the Village when work is being done. And, I am completely amazed that I am unable to explain why our station should not be ADA compliant.

If nothing else, it is my hope that the final EIS explains the impacts, what the RR, MTA and the Governor can do to mitigate the impacts so we in Floral Park can plan how to prepare for this disruptive project.

Archie T. Cheng, Trustee Inc. Village of Floral Park