

Third Track Project – Trustee Archie Cheng

At the beginning of the Board Meeting, prior to the agenda being read, Trustee Cheng made a presentation with regard to the work being done on the Third Track Project. A three-page map was distributed to residents who attended.

Trustee Cheng reported that the Tyson Avenue/east abutment demolition will continue through August 2019 after which the bridge will begin.

The Plainfield Avenue substructure work will begin sometime in the third quarter of 2019.

The Linden Avenue underpass work has started.

The Floral Park railroad station elevator work is scheduled to commence in April, 2019. The completion work for the center of the station is scheduled to be completed by December, 2019; the north is scheduled to be completed in October, 2019 and the south is scheduled to be completed in November, 2019.

The south side retaining wall is scheduled to begin in the 2nd quarter of 2019 and be completed by late in the 3rd quarter of 2019. The north side sound wall is scheduled to begin in the 4th quarter of 2019 and continue into 2020. Just prior to the beginning of the Board Meeting, Trustee Cheng said he received an email, which he did not have the opportunity to properly review, which indicated that it would take 10 to 16 months for the completion of this work.

Trustee Cheng reported that there will be a residential traffic closure from mid-April 2019 on Covert Avenue from approximately 6th Avenue to 1st Avenue in New Hyde Park. This closure is expected to last for at least six months. All Covert Avenue traffic will be closed between Stewart Avenue to Jericho Turnpike.

Eastbound and westbound Stewart Avenue traffic will be encouraged to go north on New Hyde Park Road to Jericho Turnpike east or west. Any westbound traffic that proceeds to Covert Avenue will be directed to go south onto Covert Avenue.

Northbound Covert Avenue traffic from Hempstead Turnpike, the suggested detour route, will be northwesterly Tulip Avenue. If traffic continues northbound, traffic will be forced onto eastbound Stewart Avenue.

The Village is concerned about traffic using Cisney Avenue and Beverly Avenue as a cut-through and speedway up Magnolia Avenue to Plainfield Avenue. We are also concerned about Marshall Avenue, but there are four outlets to Tulip Avenue.

Trustee Cheng said that both 3TC personnel as well as our own traffic consultants were contacted and one solution suggested was to turn both Cisney Avenue and Beverly Avenue into one-way streets towards Covert Avenue from Orchid Street onto Covert Avenue. Both experts agreed with our suggestion. Another suggestion was to ban right-hand turns from westbound

Marshall Avenue to northbound Revere Drive, again forcing traffic onto Tulip Avenue. Many comments and suggestions were made by residents regarding the traffic patterns in this area.

A resident commented that the third track reverse commute is not justified. Trustee Cheng and Mayor Longobardi agreed with the resident and said we are all frustrated by this project. The resident also asked if the MTA has budgeted funds for this third track project. Trustee Cheng said that the money is in their budget and the contractors have an incentive to finish the project on time. Trustee Cheng said a questionnaire was sent out by the MTA asking how they are doing. They received an over 80% approval rating. However, only 15-20% of residents replied to the questionnaire.

There will be no commercial vehicles permitted on residential streets. Prior to construction, the streets were examined by the MTA. The Village will be reimbursed for damage to our roads.

Trustee Cheng said there will be more police presence in the area during the Covert Avenue construction. During construction on Tyson Avenue, over 100 tickets were issued for blocking the box on Tulip and Verbena Avenue and more than 200 warnings were also given.

A resident suggested the Village rent temporary speed bumps for the Cisney/Beverly/Magnolia area and ask the MTA to pay for them.

Trustee Cheng said it is very important that the business district stay as strong as possible. If residents have any other suggestions or comments about the traffic flow, contact Trustee Cheng via the Village website or send him an email.

Mayor Longobardi said we will keep residents informed of all phases of the construction work. It is a short-term project and we want it to impact residents as little as possible. We want to keep our businesses strong on Covert Avenue. Mayor Longobardi thanked residents for attending the meeting and for voicing their opinions.