



COUNCILMAN THOMAS E. MUSCARELLA

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Mr. Michael Avolio
Empire State Development Corporation
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Avolio:

As the Town of Hempstead Councilman for several communities which sit in close proximity to Belmont Park, I am writing in support of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park's request for additional time to comment on the revised Final Environmental Impact Statement ("FEIS") as Amended July 22. Given the addition of a new LIRR Train Station, as well as additional mitigation measures, this request is reasonable and should be granted.

I think that we all share similar priorities when it comes to encouraging sustainable development and economic growth in our region. At the same time, it is critically important that the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) Board of Directors consider all of the prospective impacts of the major construction project planned at Belmont Park prior to the Board of Directors voting on the project. Specifically, I write to encourage your thorough and thoughtful research regarding the recently announced full-service LIRR station planned for the Belmont facility. Indeed, a conversation should immediately be undertaken between the ESDC Board of Directors and neighbors surrounding Belmont regarding train station parking and traffic on the LIRR/Belmont properties and interior roadways that are adjacent to residential homes and local schools on the north and east sides of the property. Neighbors were understandably upset that the full-service Belmont LIRR station was only announced at the eleventh hour, just before the Monday, July 8th Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) hearing. This has provided little time for neighbors to research the ramifications of the train station's impact on their quality-of-life.

As we all know, the LIRR attracts motorists who drive to local train stations on a 24/7 basis. What's more, the interior roadways and parking lots located on the extreme north side of the Belmont property have been reported as the site of parking and driving for motorists traveling to and from the Belmont LIRR stop. And, these interior roadways and parking lots are immediately adjacent to residential homes and a local school. Consider the serious and genuine concerns of affected neighbors. Issues such as traffic noise, car horns, headlights shining in home windows at all hours of the night and pollution, among other topics, warrant investigation. Further, neighbors need to be assured that there will not be ingress and egress points utilized or built for commuters, which would empty onto local residential streets. That type of commuter traffic plan would devastate the local bedroom communities surrounding Belmont.

With the announcement of the full-service Belmont LIRR station occurring on the same day as the Board of Directors' FEIS meeting, it is understandable that local homeowners were caught off guard on the prospective impacts of the station. Accordingly, I would respectfully ask that the Empire State Development Corporation not rush to a final decision on project approval until it has an opportunity to meet with the community to provide details on commuter parking, traffic, noise, pollution and other adverse consequences associated with the reported location of LIRR parking fields and the utilization of interior roadways that are immediately adjacent to residential homes. I would also request that the ESDC amend the FEIS and issue a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement with a new comment period with respect to new information and project modifications contained in the FEIS so that those who must live with the ramifications of the project can have an opportunity to review and comment on the amended FEIS.

I would appreciate your prompt and courteous response to this letter and sincere consideration of my request for additional time and community meetings on legitimate LIRR parking and traffic concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Muscarella
Councilman, 2nd District