

Presentation of
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Deputy Mayor, Village of New Hyde Park

May 24, 2016

I appear tonight on behalf of the residents, business owners and daily visitors to the Village of New Hyde Park.

New Hyde Park is a community bisected by the main line of the Long Island Rail Road and has three (3) at-grade crossings. Traffic flow, development and the overall functionality of the community have been greatly affected by this fact, not to mention the compromise to safety that is created with all at-grade crossings. While the Village recognizes the potential benefits and significance of a project which includes the elimination of these grade crossings, it is extremely cautious about the overall cumulative impacts to our community resulting from such an undertaking and questions whether the benefits, if any, will outweigh such impacts.

New Hyde Park is a special village. The residents of the Village strive to preserve and promote a quality of life which focuses upon safety, security, fine homes, manicured lawns, uncluttered roads, culture, recreation, education and a sense of community. Any project proposed for New Hyde Park must also protect and promote that quality of life.

New Hyde Park is also special as a business community. The business owners and professionals in the Village are committed to complementing the residential community in promoting the Village as a wonderful place to visit or in which to live or work.

It is urged that the environmental review of the proposed Expansion Project take into consideration and share in, at every phase and in every category of review, the promotion of the dearly-held values of the New Hyde Park community.

The Village of New Hyde Park will submit full written comments to the MTA LIRR concerning the scoping of the proposed project. However, at this time, I offer the following for your consideration:

1. Why are the scoping sessions scheduled on the same date and at the same time at different locations?
2. Why is the deadline for comments June 13, 2016? Should more time be provided for a proposed project of this size and magnitude?
3. Why are the project sponsor and lead agency one and the same?
4. How is the proposed project different from that of 10 years ago?
5. Where is the third track going to be located?
6. Where are the boundaries of the LIRR “right of way”?
7. How can the MTA LIRR state with any specificity that takings will be limited without identifying the third track placement?
8. What easements will be necessary (permanent or temporary) during and after construction?
9. Where will construction be staged during the life of the project?
10. How will drainage be addressed during and after construction?

Specifically, how will drainage be addressed at the proposed grade crossing elimination sites?

11. How long will construction last?
12. How will the closure of Covert Avenue affect businesses?
13. What type of economic study will be conducted to review the impacts upon property owners and businesses during and after the construction?

14. Currently, how much freight cargo travels on the main line?
15. How much freight cargo is anticipated?
16. What agreements/contracts are in place with freight companies to utilize the main line?
17. What are the terms, regulations and restrictions with respect to freight?
18. What are the alternatives proposed to improve service and reliability other than a third track?
19. What data and or study has the MTA LIRR obtained/reviewed with respect to the reverse commute?
20. How will emergency services be affected during construction?
21. What mitigation measures will be made to ensure that the proposed project will not result in soil or water contamination?
22. What are the cumulative impacts with respect to land use, the character of the community, noise and vibration?

Thank you.