



Village of New Hyde Park

Village Hall

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June 24, 2019

Lawrence J. Montreuil
Mayor

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*Superintendent of
Building Department &
Public Works*

Mr. Mark Roche
Project Executive LIRR Expansion
MTA
2 Broadway, 8th Fl.
New York, NY 10004

Subject: Traffic Conditions in New Hyde Park

Dear Mr. Roche,

The closure of Covert Avenue has caused an increased level of traffic on residential streets that, while not unexpected, has reached an untenable level that requires further mitigation measures be taken immediately. Further, I request your assistance in securing a greater police presence on local roadways that have seen a dramatic increase in use due to the project. The deployment of police, both MTA police and Nassau County police are urgently needed to enforce traffic laws, particularly the extremely high incidences of motorists running thorough stop signs as they attempt to expedite their trip through the detour area; our neighborhood!

The area of greatest concern for New Hyde Park is South 12th Street. As we feared, South 12th Street is being increasingly used by transient traffic seeking to cross the railroad tracks, in lieu of using New Hyde Park Road. This has created a dramatic increased use of South 12th Street; a residential street with a 30 mile per hour speed limit. The queue of cars has also grown to unprecedented lengths when the gates are down at the grade crossings.

I have been given reports of northbound cars backed up as far as south of Sixth Avenue, from the grade crossing. This is a distance of over 1,080 feet. The only queue length I see that comes close to this in the Stantec Traffic Analysis is westbound Jericho Turnpike New Hyde Park Road during peak PM travel (1,056 feet). In that study, the New Hyde Park Road / Jericho Turnpike intersection is graded an F.

South 12th Street is also brought to a standstill southbound from Jericho Turnpike to the grade crossing. Northbound cars also queue up trying to make east or westbound turns on to Jericho Turnpike from South 12th Street. This is complicated by the lack of synchronization of traffic signals on Jericho Turnpike and Ingraham Lane. This needs to be retimed by NYSDOT.

I cannot offer empirical data to say what the LOS, or average queues are that we are experiencing because I have recently learned that Stantec has not been monitoring actual traffic flow as was promised before the Covert Avenue closure. On my urgings, I have been told that Stantec is going to begin putting out equipment to measure the actual conditions we are experiencing. I can only tell you what we are experiencing anecdotally, and it is bad.

When frustrated motorists finally get to the South 12th Street grade crossing, they are confronted with a six-way intersection. Each entrance is controlled by a stop sign with the at grade crossing in the middle of this 6-way intersection. The high volume of cars we now have negotiating this already hazardous intersection has become a game of Russian roulette. An accident on the railroad tracks seems inevitable.

We need the immediate deployment of MTA Police to this crossing, actively directing traffic through this intersection.

We also need the deployment of Nassau County police to actively enforce motorists who are ignoring stops signs on this and other nearby residential streets. The frantic motorists who are trying to make up lost time encountering the Covert Avenue detour are racing through Village roads and violating our traffic laws trying to make up their lost time. This is putting our residents at risk. We need an active police presence and I implore you to assist me in getting this implemented immediately.

Additionally, we need to implement some of the local mitigation measures the Village insisted upon including in the Covert Avenue Detour Plan. The first is item C in Figure 5 – Local Mitigation Option Map in the Covert Avenue Construction Detour Plan - Traffic Impact Study dated November 5, 2018. This measure prevents northbound traffic on South 12th Street from Stewart Avenue. The northbound closure to through traffic has to be monitored closely to ensure traffic does not simply circumvent South 12th Street through other local roadways.

I realize a simple solution to relieve South 12th Street (in 3 months from now) would be the simultaneous closure of South 12th Street with the proposed full closure of New Hyde Park Road. However, the Village Board cannot understand how Covert Avenue and the adjacent residential streets can support that volume. While a presentation from 3TC is being scheduled for a more detailed presentation of the concept, the scenario does not look to be a good one for New Hyde Park at this time.

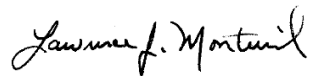
Based on our current experience, the initial volume of traffic predicted at Covert, impacts to surrounding adjacent villages and impacts to surrounding residential streets the Village currently opposes this option. To gain the Villages approval we need the actual data to compare to the earlier Stantec prediction of what the traffic is likely to be. This includes looking at possible alternative actions that motorists will take to "bypass" the detour as well as the impacts of a large amount of Commercial Vehicles travel on Covert from Jericho, through NHP, through Stewart Manor Village and to Hempstead Turnpike.

In summary, I need the cooperation of your good office on the following urgent items:

- Immediate deployment of **MTA Police** to actively direct traffic through the 6-way intersection of South 12th Street, Second Avenue, Third Avenue and the LIRR at grade crossing.
- Immediate deployment of **Nassau County Police** to saturate the South 12th Street area to enforce local traffic control laws – stop signs and to ensure the safe and calm traffic flow through residential streets in New Hyde Park
- Require **Stantec** to deploy traffic monitoring equipment in New Hyde Park to measure the actual conditions against their published predictions and to recommend mitigations to untenable conditions as they become known
- Implementation by **Stantec** of local mitigation item C: the closure of South 12th Street northbound at Stewart Avenue to through traffic; with enforcement assured by Nassau County Police Department
- Resynchronize the traffic signals on Jericho Turnpike at South 12th Street and Ingraham Lane to permit greater flow out of South 12th Street by **NYS DOT**.

Mark, thank you in advance for your prompt attention to these urgent items. The consistent and sincere attention to the concerns of the people of New Hyde Park you have always demonstrated is greatly appreciated. Your influence with the agencies we need to make these corrective actions is also needed and appreciated.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence J. Montreuil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lawrence J. Montreuil
Mayor
Village of New Hyde Park

cc: New Hyde Park Board of Trustees
Inspector Robert Musetich, Commander Third Precinct, NCPD
John Martelli, Deputy Chief, MTA Police Department
Joseph T. Brown, Regional Director NYSDOT
Brent Malcolm, Engineer, Stantec
Travis Brennan, Director Community Outreach, 3TC