



**NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501

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December 6, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

Edward M. Dumas, Vice President  
Market Development & Public Affairs  
Long Island Rail Road Expansion Project  
MTA Long Island Rail Road, MC 1131  
Jamaica Station Building  
Jamaica, NY 11435

**Re: Draft Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Long Island Rail Road Expansion Project – Proposed Comment Period**

Dear Governor Cuomo and Mr. Dumas,

It is our understanding that on November 28, 2016, Governor Cuomo and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority released its Draft Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Long Island Rail Road Expansion Project (“DEIS”). According to the DEIS, the public comment period has commenced and will continue through January 31, 2017, and shall include six public hearings commencing on January 17, 2017.

The DEIS advanced for this proposed project consists of 21 Chapters with Appendices covering complex and detailed topics of incredible importance to the thousands of residents affected by both the construction and operation of a third track. Communities affected include Floral Park, Garden City, Garden City Park, Mineola, Westbury, New Cassel and many surrounding communities.

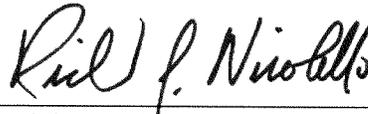
This exceedingly aggressive review period falls at a time when many of our residents are observing religious holidays and may find it difficult to review this very complex document, formulate comments by the proscribed deadline or to participate in the public hearing process in a meaningful way.

We write to you today to request that this period be extended to April 30, 2017 to accommodate the review of this very lengthy and complex document by our local village, town and county government officials and very interested public.

Thank you,



Legislator Vincent T. Muscarella  
Legislative District 8



Legislator Richard T. Nicoletto  
Legislative District 9



Legislator Laura Schaefer  
Legislative District 14



Legislator Rose Walker  
Legislative District 17

cc:

Honorable Anthony J. Santino  
Supervisor, Town of Hempstead  
1 Washington Street  
Hempstead, New York 11550

Honorable John Venditto  
Supervisor, Town of Oyster Bay  
Town Hall  
54 Audrey Avenue  
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

Honorable Judi Bosworth  
Supervisor, Town of North Hempstead  
220 Plandome Road  
Manhasset New York 11030

Honorable Henry J. Schrieber  
Mayor, Village of Bellrose  
50 Superior Road  
Bellrose, New York 11001

Honorable Thomas J. Tweedy  
Mayor, Village of Floral Park  
1 Floral Boulevard.  
P.O. Box 27  
Floral Park, New York 11002

Honorable Gerard S. Tangredi  
Mayor, Village of Stewart Manor  
Village Hall  
120 Covert Avenue  
Stewart Manor, New York 11530

Honorable Nicholas P. Episcopia  
Mayor, Village of Garden City  
351 Stewart Avenue  
Garden City, New York 11530

Honorable Robert A. Lofaro  
Mayor, Village of New Hyde Park  
1420 Jericho Turnpike  
New Hyde Park, New York 11040

Honorable Scott P. Strauss  
Mayor, Village of Mineola  
155 Washington Ave  
Mineola, New York 11501

Honorable Peter Cavallaro  
Mayor, Village of Westbury  
235 Lincoln Place  
Westbury, New York 11590

ANTHONY J. SANTINO  
SUPERVISOR



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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD  
ONE WASHINGTON STREET  
HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550-4923  
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December 5, 2016

Mr. Thomas F. Prendergast, Chairman & CEO  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
2 Broadway  
New York, New York 10004

Dear Mr. Prendergast:

The MTA/Long Island Railroad delivered more than 2,200 pages of its Third Track Draft Environmental Impact Statement to Hempstead Town Hall in a cardboard box weighing twelve pounds only late last week. The material, which was not identifiable other than for an inconspicuous post-it note indicating its contents and who it should be delivered to, contained one three-inch binder full of your double-sided DEIS, one three-inch binder of appendices containing maps, satellite images, artist renderings and two additional appendices, one of right of way areal images and another of engineering technical memorandums.

The Town of Hempstead formally requests a three-to-six month extension of the DEIS Comment Period in order to properly analyze the implications of this billion dollar project and review its effect on our constituents along this 9.8 mile stretch along the LIRR's Main Line from Floral Park to Hicksville.

The only way that area stakeholders will have a legitimate chance to review and consider the immense amount of highly technical material contained in your DEIS, which will affect the long-term quality of life in our communities, is with a public comment extension to a period past January 31, 2017.

Public transportation projects of a far less financial commitment in other states have led to public comment extensions, such as the State of Maryland's BaltimoreLink plan and Washington DC suburbs' rapid transit bus system in addition to many others.

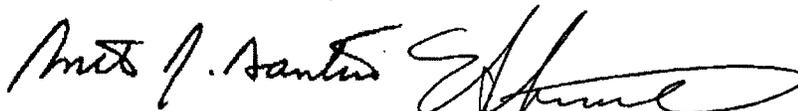
We are requesting an extension of the normal DEIS period, which usually accompanies simple projects spearheaded by New York State entities – to a date in April to July 2017: a time period in which the highly technical 21 chapter study on environmental impacts can be properly and intelligently reviewed and digested.

The only logical answer to any proposal to adding a third track to accommodate increased passenger load as well as potentially accommodate increased freight traffic would be to extend the public comment period so that all neighbors, government, first responders and other stakeholders be given a fair opportunity to research the detailed, 2,200 page proposal and provide their input. We firmly agree, as we hope you do as well, that the public should have no concerns or feelings as

though this Third Track proposal is being rushed through. A proper extension of the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Study would ensure that this does not happen.

We firmly believe that public safety requires greater public comment. Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Anthony J. Santino and Edward A. Ambrosino.

ANTHONY J. SANTINO  
Supervisor

EDWARD A. AMBROSINO  
Councilman



EDWARD P. RA  
Assemblyman 19<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

Vice-Chair, Minority Steering Committee  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Education Committee

COMMITTEES  
Codes  
Health  
Higher Education  
Transportation

December 8, 2016

Mr. Edward M. Dumas  
V.P. Market Development & Public Affairs  
MTA Long Island RR, MC 11311  
Jamaica Station Building  
Jamaica, NY 11435

Dear Mr. Dumas:

I have received a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Long Island Rail Road Expansion Project. Upon talking an initial review of the document and discussing it with several other local officials I am formally requesting your consideration of extending the January 31, 2017 deadline for public comments.

As you are surely aware there is great public interest in this project in the communities I represent as they will bear the brunt of the impact both during construction and after completion. As such our local community stakeholders seek the opportunity to make informed comments on this document and will require sufficient time to do so. I believe an extension will allow our local municipalities adequate time to hire experts should they choose to undertake an independent evaluation of the information presented. While I applaud the work of your representatives in engaging stakeholder groups during the infancy of this plan, the interests of fairness and transparency require that our local villages, other municipalities and community organizations have the time required to seek and retain expert analysis so that their comments can reflect the concerns of their residents.

Moreover, this is the closest to a full "plan" that has been presented as there was little to no information regarding the track itself at the scoping phase of the process. Given the enormous scope of this project, the impact it will have on the local communities and the voluminous and technical nature of this document it is appropriate that the time frame be extended.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Ra  
Member of Assembly  
19<sup>th</sup> District