

Hello Neighbors, this Mayor Episcopia on Friday, May 20th:

By this time I hope you have heard about the proposed 3rd track plan for the main line of the LIRR. This track will be on the south side of the railroad and directly impact homes in Garden City. It will run from Floral Park to Hicksville and cost well in excess of \$1 billion dollars. I along with other Trustees have attended several meetings with Mayors and Village Officials from neighboring communities. It is the unanimous opinion of everyone involved that this project must be opposed. The Governor's staff states that it will improve service and bring great benefits to our local economy. The plan eliminates all the grade crossings from Floral Pk. to Hicksville, but not without the third track project being implemented. The draft "Scoping document" which is on our Village website shows all the benefits of the grade crossing eliminations but is woefully short of any details on the third track or its impact on the quality of life for the affected residents and businesses. In short we are being asked to support a plan with no details of construction, and no specific plan that we can analyze. None of us believe the projected time to completion or the fact that homes or businesses will not be taken. The most disturbing aspect of this plan is the planned public meetings and the time frame for questions. Over the objections of the Village officials the Governor's staff insisted on having these sessions almost immediately after their scoping document were release. There was little if any time to really analyze the impact of this project, and worst of all there will be no formal presentation by the staff. These sessions will be just a sales pitch on the grade crossing eliminations. Our local representative such as NYS Senators Kemp Hannon and Jack Martins, County Legislator Laura Schaefer, Town of Hempstead Councilman Ed Ambosino and NYS Assemblyman Ed Ra are all against this very unfair plan which frankly is being rushed through with little or no regard for the residents or businesses in the area. I and my colleagues on the Board of Trustees urge you to attend one of these scoping sessions and vigorously object to this plan.

Public "Scoping Sessions" have been scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, May 24, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Inn at New Hyde Park, 214 Jericho Tpke., New Hyde Park;
- Tuesday, May 24, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Hofstra University Mack Student Center, 1000 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead;
- Wednesday, May 25, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the "Yes We Can" Community Center, 141 Garden Street, Westbury;
- Wednesday, May 25, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Antun's, 244 West Old Country Road, Hicksville