

## **THIRD TRACK PROJECT**

The Governor's team has been using the "carrot and stick" approach in dealing with the affected Villages by tying grade crossing eliminations to the Third Track Project. It is clear that the grade crossings will not be eliminated unless the third track is constructed.

Trustees Bolebruch and Makrinos and I have attended several meetings with officials from other Villages and the Governor's team. At our last meeting on May 16th, the Governor's staff distributed "Draft SEQRA Scoping Document" which is supposed to be an outline of the entire third track project but instead related only to grade crossing eliminations. The verbiage on the third track itself is essentially "hype" with no detail or supporting statistics, leaving serious unanswered questions. For example:

- Where will the third track project actually start?
- How many neighboring areas will be affected by construction at the same time?
- Where will the construction equipment staging areas be located?
- What provable tangible economic value will this bring to Central Nassau County?
- Will the work on the Ronkonkoma tracks, the Jamaica switches and Third Track start simultaneously?
- Although they say no houses will be taken, where is the guarantee that will not change as construction goes forward to make room for the third track?

Scoping Sessions were held this week. Written comments can be submitted until 5:00 p.m. on June 13 which marks the close of the scoping period. All comments received will become part of the public record and will be considered as part of the project studies.

Written comments can be submitted via the project website at [www.AModernLI.com](http://www.AModernLI.com), or by mail to: Edward M. Dumas, Vice President, Market Development & Public Affairs, LIRR Expansion Project, MTA Long Island Railroad, MC 1131, Jamaica Station Building, Jamaica, NY 11435. I urge you to include your name and address on emails so that your message will not be discarded as "anonymous."

