

THE MISSION

REGIONAL RAIL WORKING GROUP ROCKAWAY SUBCOMMITTEE

The *Rockaway Subcommittee* of the *Regional Rail Working Group* advocates reactivating of the LIRR Rockaway Beach Line. This would provide speedier rail service between Midtown Manhattan, Central/Southern Queens and the Rockaway Peninsula. It would also serve JFK Airport and the proposed Aqueduct Racetrack and proposed Casino.

WHO WE ARE

The *Regional Rail Working Group* is a consortium of transit advocacy organizations whose goal is to improve mobility by advocating a regional rail system with fast and frequent service with affordable and integrated fares within the Tri-State area. A major component of this plan would be more efficient operation of commuter rail service. This would be accomplished by operating commuter trains between destinations in Long Island, Queens and New Jersey via Penn Station.

THE PROPOSAL

In southern Queens, a key component of the plan would be a one-seat ride from JFK Airport and the Aqueduct Racetrack/Casino to Midtown Manhattan. Restoring the disused LIRR Rockaway Cut-Off in Central Queens would allow high-speed airport rail service to operate and offer speedier travel between the Rockaways and Midtown Manhattan as well as provide rail transit connections between those areas of Queens not presently served by a north/south rail link.

➤ **Requirements**

- The 4.2 mile road rail bed needs to be reconditioned and restored including one rail bridge that needs to be rebuilt and other rail bridges reinforced to make this segment operable again.
- A short track connection with the AirTrain is required north of the Howard Beach Station.
- A small fleet of specially designed rail cars, which could operate on both LIRR (or subway) tracks and AirTrain.
- At the Aqueduct Race Track or Aqueduct North Conduit Ave. Station, a cross platform transfer would make it easier for A Line riders to transfer to this new rail service to Midtown Manhattan plus permit airport riders to switch to the A subway line for service to downtown Brooklyn and lower Manhattan. This would include a renovated Aqueduct Station Hub at one or both of these stations.

THE BENEFITS

- **REDUCED TRAVEL TIME:** Travel time between south Queens and Midtown, Manhattan would be cut in half.
- **ENHANCED PROPERTY VALUES:** Property values would increase because communities along the Rockaway ROW would be in closer proximity to speedy train service to Manhattan.
- **BOOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Improved access would spark economic development for all businesses located adjacent to the Rockaway Beach ROW.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION:** The abandoned right-of way that currently gathers garbage and weeds would be properly landscaped and sound proofed to gain community support.
- **INTEGRATED & AFFORDABLE FARES:** Integrated and affordable regional fare structure that would be later incorporated into the new Smart Card Technology.

AMMENITIES

- The restored right-of-way could also accommodate hiking paths and bikeways.
- In consultation with affected communities several intermediate stations could be re-opened and adjacent transit friendly development encouraged.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS

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