

A Modern LI Long Island Rail Road Expansion Project

Floral Park to Hicksville

PROJECT BENEFITS

Less Congestion, Cleaner Air Fact Sheet

Improving air quality and getting cars off the road.



How will the LIRR Expansion Project benefit the environment?

- If we do nothing, automobile traffic on Long Island is expected to increase more than 25 percent over the next 25 years. With improved LIRR service and additional mass transit options for Long Island, we can reduce traffic congestion, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.
- Eliminating the seven street-level railroad crossings would result in improvements to air quality in the neighborhoods along the corridor due to reduction in idling time. Emissions of motor vehicle related pollutants can adversely impact ambient concentrations of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and respirable particulate matter at nearby sidewalks, public open spaces, schools, residences, and other sensitive locations

Reduce Traffic at Street-Level Crossings

Highway congestion is a major contributor to air pollution. The LIRR Expansion Project will help us all breathe easier by getting more people out of cars and onto mass transit.

- In 2010, Long Island vehicular traffic, including cars idling at grade crossings, produced nearly 11 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, or about 30 percent of the entire Island's greenhouse gas emissions. (Long Island Carbon Footprint Project)
- A commuter rail trip produces two-thirds less greenhouse gas per mile than a trip made in a single-occupancy vehicle. (MTA 2012 Sustainability Report)
- The MTA transit network – subway, bus, and commuter rail – saves the region more than 17 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. (MTA 2012 Sustainability Report)

Getting Cars off the Road

By improving the availability and reliability of rail service on the Main Line, we can provide a more attractive alternative to driving. The result will be less congestion on the Long Island Expressway and Long Island's other major thoroughfares.

- According to the Long Island Index, it would require the equivalent of 10 traffic lanes to carry the daily equivalent of LIRR riders into Penn Station.
- The LIE, which runs parallel to the Main Line, ranks among the worst in the nation in terms of congestion cost, the value of lost personal time, and wasted fuel, at an estimated \$150 million annually.
- The average automobile commuter on Long Island experiences 110 hours of traffic delays every year. This is the equivalent of three 35-hour work weeks, time that could otherwise be spent with family and friends.
- These delays cost the average commuter 35 extra gallons of gas a year.