

February 2, 2023

Catherine Rinaldi
Interim President
MTA Long Island Rail Road
Jamaica Station
Jamaica, NY 11435-4380

Dear Interim President Rinaldi:

We write to request that New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) consider reopening the Elmhurst Station on Long Island Rail Road's (LIRR) Port Washington Line. As you know, MTA closed the Elmhurst station in 1985 when Queens' population was just a fraction of what it is today. In fact, Queens has outpaced New York City's population growth for the nearly 4 decades since the station closed. Reopening this station could be an economic boon for Elmhurst and the surrounding neighborhoods, once again providing its residents access to Manhattan and the rest of Queens.

The subway lines that stop in Elmhurst typically take between 30-40 minutes to reach Manhattan while the LIRR could arrive at Penn Station in just 15 minutes. Cutting the morning commute in half for thousands of residents provides an invaluable quality of life improvement for Elmhurst residents while also alleviating crowds on subways and buses. The station would also make Elmhurst more accessible to other New Yorkers, bringing new customers to the hundreds of small businesses in the area.

In 2013, MTA commissioned a survey on the ridership potential of reopening the station. The survey's report forecasted the station would generate 1,710 AM Peak Period passengers with a daily average of 3,800 trips per day.¹ The survey, which sampled residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the potential station, demonstrated overwhelming support for its reopening. Since the report was released, Elmhurst has only continued to grow, while transit options have remained stagnant—crowding buses and subways in the area.

MTA included funding for reopening the station in their 2015-2019 Capital Plan, until the funding was stripped in a 2017 amendment. Since then, the need for the station has only increased. As Elmhurst and Queens continue to grow, it deserves equitable transit. That is why we respectfully request MTA consider reopening the crucial Elmhurst LIRR station.

¹ Abt SRBI, "LIRR Ridership Potential in Elmhurst." October, 2014.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



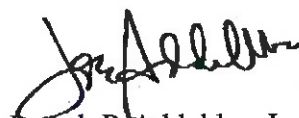
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Donovan Richards Jr.
Queens Borough President



Michael Gianaris
NY State Senate Deputy Leader



Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
NY State Senator



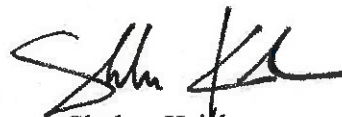
Steven Raga
NY State Assemblymember



Jessica Ramos
NY State Senator



Catalina Cruz
NY State Assemblymember



Shekar Krishnan
NYC Councilmember

CC John "Janno" Lieber, MTA Chair and CEO
NY State Senator Leroy Comrie, Chair of the Committee on Corporations
NY State Assemblymember Kenneth Zebrowski, Chair of the Committee on Corporations
NYC Councilmember Selvena Brooks-Powers, Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure