



August 30, 2021

Mr. Janno Lieber  
Acting Chair and CEO  
Metropolitan Transit Authority  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

The Long Island Association (LIA), Association for a Better Long Island (ABLI), the Long Island Builder's Institute (LIBI), the Long Island Contractor's Association (LICA), and HIA-LI, which together represent a broad cross section of Long Island's business community, urges the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to prioritize in its Capital Plan the relocation of the Long Island Rail Road's (LIRR) Yaphank Train Station and include funding for simultaneous electrification or implementation of new battery power technology. This project could help enable the MTA to better serve communities on the East End of Long Island and support regional businesses as well as Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), a critical economic development asset for our region.

We recommend that the project commences immediately since the feasibility study has already been completed, in part with \$20 million previously allocated. The MTA can now utilize the balance of this funding for proceeding with the relocation. A new location for the Yaphank Train Station that identifies the straightest, shortest route to the East End and the electrification of the line or implementation of battery technology will support our regional economy by:

- Increasing access to BNL, which generates hundreds of millions of dollars of economic output for New York State and employs approximately 2,500 people, with more than 5,000 visitors annually. BNL recently won a contract from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) of up to \$2.6 billion to construct a new Electron Ion Collider to study nuclear physics and thus a direct route from New York City to BNL is needed immediately and will become even more important in the years to come.
- Increasing ridership on the LIRR and addressing issues including parking and traffic with other crowded stations and the roads leading to it, such as at the Ronkonkoma station.
- Stimulating economic development in the Town of Brookhaven and along the William Floyd Corridor. Future development and redevelopment on Long Island should be near transit hubs, and a new train station presents a unique opportunity to engage the community, government officials and developers in a discussion about transit-oriented development.

Therefore, our organizations **urge the MTA to prioritize the relocation of the LIRR Yaphank Train Station and include funding for simultaneous electrification or implementation of new battery power technology.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any additional questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



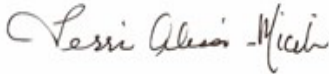
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*Long Island Contactor's Association*

cc: Kathy Hochul, New York State Governor  
Long Island State Legislative Delegation  
Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive  
Ed Romaine, Brookhaven Town Supervisor  
Philip Eng, President of the MTA Long Island Rail Road  
Doon Gibbs, Director of Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Kevin Law, MTA Board Representative, Suffolk County  
David Mack, MTA Board Representative, Nassau County