

**Testimony  
of the  
Queens Civic Congress  
on  
The Cross Harbor Freight Tunnel**

January 29, 2002  
LaGuardia College

My name is Sean M. Walsh, I am President of the Queens Civic Congress an umbrella organization of one hundred civic associations in Queens County. The Freight Tunnel under New York harbor which will connect Long Island and New Jersey has been a priority of our organization. The health of the economy and the citizens of not only Queens but all of Long Island rests on the successful implementation of this project.

Truck traffic is not only a nuisance and an expense on the infrastructure but is serious polluter of our environment. The time factor in moving goods from the mainland to Long Island and back raises the cost of doing business in New York City and Long Island creating a serious constraint on the local economy. Therefore, we support your efforts to move the bulk of freight from trucks to rail which is better suited to carry greater volume of freight traffic.

I must, however, point out a serious defect in your planning or lack thereof. While you move the freight by rail to Brooklyn you fail to make provisions to move freight by rail throughout Long Island. As a result heavy truck traffic will continue to exist on the Long Island roadways limiting the effectiveness of the rail link and maybe even its utilization.

We want to see a more comprehensive plan to expand freight rail throughout Long Island. We look forward to working with you to accomplish this goal. Thank you.