

June 29, 1999

James W. Harris, PE  
Executive Director  
New York Metropolitan Transportation Council  
1 World Trade Center Suite 82 East  
New York, NY 10048

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Queens Civic Congress is an umbrella group of ninety-two civic associations throughout Queens county. I have read with interest the Mobility for the Millennium Executive Summary. Enclosed is a copy of the relevant sections of the Congress' platform dealing with transportation issues. I think that you will find them compatible with many of your objectives.

The single greatest transportation problem facing the region is the movement of freight in and out as well as through the region. Truck traffic is responsible for much of the congestion and damage to the road network.

Recognizing that truck traffic is essential to the economic well being of the metropolitan area, the first priority must be the reestablishment of the freight rail system to alleviate the tonnage that must traverse our roads. This includes the building of a rail tunnel from New Jersey to Long Island and increasing the capacity of Hudson valley connection to allow modern sized freight cars.

The next most important priority must be a one seat ride from JFK and LaGuardia airports to Manhattan. We have fought the Port Authority Van Wyck Expressway Air Train from JFK to Jamaica, because it fails to achieve that objective but it will strangle the Van Wyck access to JFK during the five years of construction.

We have suggested that the old LIRR Rockaway line be restored to link not only JFK but the Rockaways to Manhattan. We have also recommended that the Port Washington branch of the LIRR via the Flushing river be linked under the bay to LaGuardia as a one seat ride to Manhattan. These two LIRR connections will be feasible when the connection to Grand Central via the 63<sup>rd</sup> street tunnel is completed.

I look forward to working with you on this important endeavor and please feel free to call upon us for any assistance we may be able to offer.

Very truly yours,

SEAN M. WALSH  
President