



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Elaine Phillips

## Senator Phillips & Assemblyman Ra Question MTA Leaders on Third Track Proposal

ELAINE PHILLIPS February 21, 2017

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Senator Elaine Phillips (R-Manhasset) and Assemblyman Ed Ra (R-Franklin Square) recently questioned MTA Interim Executive Director Veronique Hakim and members of MTA leadership team about the third track proposal.

“The proposed third track megaproject will have a major impact on the surrounding communities both in the short and long term. Residents, small business and local governments still have many questions and concerns which the MTA must answer and address,” said Senator Phillips. “Reiterating that message with the MTA’s new leader was important to make sure that the communities’ voices are heard. I appreciate her taking the time to discuss this issue with us and pledging to continue the dialogue with the residents.”

“Given the wide-ranging impact of this proposed project on the communities along the LIRR main-line it is appropriate that the residents' concerns be directly addressed.” said Assemblyman Ra. “The MTA also must be transparent regarding the funding of this project and what it means for the overall capital program for the LIRR and MTA before proposing an amendment to the previously approved MTA capital plan which didn't include funding for the third track proposal.”

During a joint legislative budget hearing in Albany where Ms. Hakim was testifying before members of the Senate and Assembly, Senator Phillips and Assemblyman Ra discussed a number of the concerns raised by communities along the mainline corridor who would be most directly affected by the project, including:

- The impact to resident's quality of life, during and after the construction;
- The effect on property values in the communities and the loss of tax revenue due to several commercial properties being taken off the tax rolls;
- The impact construction will have on traffic patterns, public safety, downtown businesses and the environment;
- The potential increase in freight rail traffic; and
- How the project will be funded.

Senator Phillips and Assemblyman Ra also asked to provide as much information as possible about these concerns to the communities. Interim Executive Director Hakim committed to continuing the MTA's extensive community outreach program.