



Empire State Passengers Association

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ESPA Endorses **LIRR Main Line Improvements Project**

Improved Safety, Mobility and Travel Options Will Benefit All

The Officers and Coordinators of the Empire State Passengers Association (ESPA), at their November 2005 meeting, unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the Long Island Railroad's proposed Main Line Improvements Project.

Bruce Becker, the President of ESPA stated "ESPA's support of this most worthy transportation project is centered on the positive benefits of the proposal's three key components:

- **The elimination of the current eight at-grade highway crossings, which will greatly improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and train passengers. In addition, the reduction in noise and pollution associated with these grade crossings will substantially improve the quality of life for surrounding residents and businesses.**
- **The proposed improvements to stations and bridges which will enhance the appearance, desirability and economic growth of communities along this route.**
- **The addition of a third main track which will provide the necessary additional rail capacity to allow for future enhanced peak hour services; expanded 'reverse' commute opportunities and the introduction of through service from Long Island locations to midtown Manhattan at Grand Central, as a component of the East Side Access initiative."**

Mr. Becker continued "**ESPA** believes that **ALL** Long Islanders and Metro New Yorkers will benefit from the improved safety and efficiency of the overall transportation network that will be offered upon the completion of this project. We strongly concur with many other groups that these positive benefits far out weigh any short-term or narrowly focused concerns that may be related to the project."

The Empire State Passengers Association (ESPA), which is comprised of over 1,400 members located throughout New York State, is a "grass-roots" advocacy organization dedicated to improving passenger rail service, supporting seamless interconnectivity between public transportation modes, and promoting governmental policies that encourage balanced transportation systems.