

Dear Elected Official,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed QueensWay project and I hope that you will do everything you can to make the project come to fruition as it will be a wonderful addition for our community.

As you may know, a 3.5 mile stretch of the old Rockaway Beach Branch railroad right-of-way (ROW) currently lies abandoned in Central and Southern Queens. Over the past 52 years, it has become a dumping ground for garbage, abandoned cars and other debris, and at 47 acres is one of the largest tracts of unused land in the City with 250,000 people living within a mile of the ROW.

As a concerned resident of Queens I support the transformation of this public land into a beautiful 3.5 mile park and bikeway. A multi-use path would provide a recreational and commuter corridor through Rego Park, Forest Hills, Woodhaven, Richmond Hill and Ozone Park. It would link these communities with Forest Park and the Brooklyn-Queens Greenway and to nearby bike lanes leading to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge/Gateway National Recreation Area, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The QueensWay would also connect to at least five subway lines and numerous commercial districts, shops and schools. Much needed greenspace, sports facilities and community gardens would be created for family recreation and for use by the several schools along the route.

I am greatly impressed by the vision presented through the QueensWay feasibility study (led by Friends of the QueensWay and the Trust for Public Land) including their commitment to community involvement and addressing concerns relating to safety, security, and privacy, among many others. The City and MTA have repeatedly indicated that they do not intend to reactivate this rail line anytime in the near future and in some places ball fields and parking lots have been built over the rails. Rather than leave this land to continue to degrade and fill with trash for another 50 years, action should be taken now to preserve this gem bringing greenspace to more Queens families, and improving recreation, the economy and the quality of life of those living along it.

(Sign Here) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email and/or phone#: \_\_\_\_\_