

NEWS RELEASE

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QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS ASKS FAA TO RULE ON AIRTRAIN; CIVICS SEEK FULL REVIEW

The Queens Civic Congress [QCC], a coalition of more than 90 civic and community organizations which span the borough of Queens, demanded that the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] conduct a full public review of the allocation of PFC money to pay for the construction of the NY & NJ Port Authority's Light Rail System from John F. Kennedy Airport to Jamaica, announced President Sean M. Walsh.

"We believe the entire scope of the project needs to be examined in view of the very low projected users of this system and the fact that baggage cannot be checked in at this location," wrote Mr. Walsh in a June 11 letter to the FAA.

Mr. Walsh noted that: "The United States Circuit Court for the District of Columbia in the matter of ATA v. FAA mandated a new review."

The QCC opposes the Van Wyck portion of the Airtrain and is following the MTA scoping hearings on a one-seat ride to LaGuardia airport. It supports a plan to connect the LIRR at Willets Point to the airport via the Flushing River shoreline. In addition, the Congress has successfully managed to create a united front against Queens College's attempt to change its mission from an affordable college education for city students into a campus of dormitories for out of state students.

The Congress is working closely with civic associations and is investigating conditions in the Buildings Department concerning illegal construction and conversions. The QCC also opposed the 4 percent Water Board hike in its rates and called for the elimination of capital costs from the water and sewer rate structure which is the cause of these yearly rate increases. The QCC also supports the Bronx community efforts to prevent the construction of a costly water filtration plant at Van Cortlandt Park. The QCC, in letters to Queens Council Members, supported enhanced watershed protection measures.