

Brookhaven Officials Push for Relocation of Yaphank Train Station to Brookhaven Technology Park on William Floyd Parkway

posted on 7/26/2016 10:56:00 AM



Farmingville, NY – Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilmen Dan Panico and Michael A. Loguercio, Jr., were joined by New York State Assemblymen Fred Thiele and Anthony Palumbo at a July 21 press conference in calling on the MTA and Long Island Railroad to extend electrification of their main line and relocate the underutilized Yaphank Train Station two miles east to the Brookhaven Technology Center in East Yaphank. Also at the event were representatives from the offices of U.S. Congressman Lee Zeldin's and NY State Senator Tom Croci.

"We are here today to send a very clear message," said Supervisor Romaine. "We are living in the 21st century, and here on Long Island we are still dealing with 19th century technology with diesel trains. We are urging for the relocation of the Yaphank Train Station – a station that is severely underutilized – from its present location, to this industrial park adjacent to William Floyd Parkway and we are demanding the electrification of the rail east of Ronkonkoma. We hope that these recommendations will become part of the MTA's 5-year plan."

Councilman Panico, who has been at the forefront of the effort to get the Yaphank Train Station moved, said, "You can file this one under 'no brainer'. It just makes sense. We need to plan for the future today, and not tomorrow." He continued, "We have a willing and able partner in Tritec Real Estate Company and a proposal that will create good jobs and tax revenue."

Councilman Loguercio spoke about the benefits of a train station at the industrial park to businesses and residents living in and around the area in hamlets such as Shirley, Ridge, and Rocky Point. He also noted that a train station in the area could help to "alleviate already congested roadways."

Assemblyman Thiele applauded Brookhaven officials for their leadership in bringing the idea to the table. "Job creation lies in Eastern Long Island," Thiele said. "We need to spark an economic engine and moving the [Yaphank] train station here is a critical part."

Councilman Panico stressed the under utilization of the Yaphank Train Station as one of the most compelling arguments for its relocation. He noted the absence of modern day amenities and lack of any real industry or retail along County Road 21 in Yaphank, as reasons for low ridership. He pointed to the 2,500 workers currently employed inside of the Industrial Park, the 3000 employees at nearby Brookhaven National Lab and the sustainable mix-used development The Meadows at Yaphank, currently under construction, to support the need for a train station in Eastern Brookhaven.

"Moving the Yaphank train station will boost economic development and provide better transportation services and options to our residents," said Panico.

Supervisor Romaine and Councilmen Loguercio and Panico concluded the press conference by announcing that they would be sending a letter to the MTA to urge them to explore relocating the train station. "Residents in these communities, with a combined population of over 150,000, would gain an easily accessible rail station by relocating the facility," they wrote.

Pictured left to right are Councilman Michael Loguercio; Brian Ferruggiari, Director of Community Affairs for AVR Realty; Eric Hofmeister representing New York State Senator Tom Croci; Bill Doyle, representing Congressman Lee Zeldin, Councilman Dan Panico; Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo; Supervisor Ed Romaine; Assemblyman Fred Thiele; Lisa Mulligan, Director of the Brookhaven Economic Development Office, CEO Brookhaven IDA; and James Tullo, Deputy Director, Brookhaven IDA.

