



Department of Urban Studies

Dear Resident:

The Office of Community Studies at Queens College and the Urban Studies research methods class are conducting a study of the potential effects of various proposals and options for the redevelopment of the abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch of the Long Island Railroad. This study will help us understand the ways each of the proposals might impact nearby neighborhoods and communities.

You have been selected to receive the enclosed survey questionnaire. The questions it asks are mainly about your opinions concerning the various redevelopment options for the abandoned rail line, including which particular option you support and what impact you believe that project would have on nearby neighborhoods.

Your participation is completely voluntary. If for any reason you do not wish to participate you are under no obligation to do so.

The information collected will contribute to our study findings and be made available to community members and their elected leaders upon its completion. Our hope is our findings will contribute to conversations about the potential benefits and potential negative impacts of each development option.

If you agree to participate in this study, please complete the attached survey questionnaire. Please answer only the questions asked. **No information that can be used to identify you will be collected in connection with this survey. You and your responses will remain anonymous.**

Typically, completing the questionnaire takes between 10-15 minutes, depending on your answers.

You may return the questionnaire to Ed Wendell, who will insure all information that may identify you is removed before forwarding to us.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, or to report a research related injury, you may call: Office of Regulatory Compliance, Queens College (CUNY), Telephone # (718) 997-5415.

If you have concerns or questions about this research project you may contact: Scott Larson, Director, Office of Community Studies, Queens College (CUNY), telephone: 718-997-5142, e-mail: scott.larson@qc.cuny.edu.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rockaway Beach Branch Community Impact Study Resident Survey

FIRST, PLEASE ANSWER SOME GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT YOURSELF

Where do you live (which borough and neighborhood; or if not New York City, name of city or town)?

How long have you lived there?

What is your race/ethnicity (please check the answer that most closely corresponds):

- South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Nepalese, etc.)
- East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Filipino, etc.)
- Black (non-Hispanic)
- Black (Hispanic)
- White (non-Hispanic)
- White (Hispanic)
- Combination of two or more races
- Other

What is your annual (household?) income (please check the appropriate box)?

- Less than \$15,000
- \$15,000-\$24,999
- \$25,000-\$34,999
- \$35,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$74,999
- \$75,000-\$99,999
- \$100,000-\$149,999
- \$150,000 and more

Do you (please check the appropriate box)?:

- Own your home
- Rent

NOW PLEASE ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR WORK

Are you (please check the appropriate box):

- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Student
- Not employed outside the home
- Retired
- Other or multiple

If employed, where is your place or work (which borough and neighborhood; or if not New York City, name of city or town)? _____

If employed, how do you get to work (please check the appropriate box)?

- Drive own car
- Taxi or car service
- Subway
- Bus
- Commuter railroad
- Combination of two or more of the above
- Other

NOW PLEASE ANSWER SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ABANDONED ROCKAWAY BEACH BRANCH RAIL LINE THAT RUNS FROM REGO PARK AND FOREST HILLS THROUGH RICHMOND HILL AND WOODHAVEN TO OZONE PARK, AS WELL AS THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH IT

How familiar are you with this abandoned rail right of way (please check the appropriate box)?

- Very
- Somewhat
- Not at all

Do you have a name for this space? _____

How close to the abandoned rail right-of-way do you live (please check the appropriate box)?

- Adjacent to it
- Within ½ mile
- More than ½ mile away
- Do not know

Have you attended any public meetings or forums about its potential redevelopment?

- Yes Where? _____
- No

How familiar are you with the proposal to turn right-of-way between Rego Park and Rockaway Boulevard in Ozone Park into a park to be called the QueensWay (please check the appropriate box)?

- Very
- Somewhat
- Not at all

How familiar are you with efforts to reactivate the right-of-way for public transportation, with stops between the Rockaways and the existing Long Island Rail Road Main Line in Rego Park with service to Manhattan (please check the appropriate box)?

- Very
- Somewhat
- Not at all

Based on what you have heard or what you know, which of the following options which would you most prefer occur on the abandoned right-of-way (please rank from 1 to 6 with 1 being your most preferred, 6 being your least preferred or choose)?

- _____ Nothing, leave it as it is
- _____ Reactivate it as a rail line for public transportation
- _____ Turn it into the proposed QueensWay linear park
- _____ A combination of the above (reactivation of rail service from the Rockaways to Atlantic Ave., no change between Atlantic Ave. and Forest Park in Woodhaven and Richmond Hill, and development of a park in Rego Park and Forest Hills)
- _____ Do not know
- _____ Something else

What are the main factors in determining your preference (please rank with 1 being the most important, 7 being the least important)?

- _____ Crime/safety
- _____ Access to parks/open space
- _____ Privacy
- _____ Lack of existing transportation options
- _____ Potential effect on home or property values
- _____ Quality of life
- _____ Other. Please explain: _____

If the abandoned right-of-way were reactivated for public transportation with stops between the Rockaways and the existing Long Island Rail Road Main Line in Rego Park with service to Manhattan, how likely would you be to use it (please check the appropriate box)?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not likely

If you answered likely or somewhat likely, what would you primarily use it for (please check all that apply)?

- Commuting to work
- Getting to school
- Other (please explain _____)

If the abandoned right-of-way were reactivated as a rail line for public transportation, how often would you likely to use it (please check the appropriate box)?

- Daily during the work week
- More than once a week
- Several times a month
- Very infrequently
- Never

In which direction would you ride it (please check the appropriate box)?

- Toward Manhattan
- Toward the Rockaways

Where would you go? _____

Based on what you know, would you be more likely to support reactivation of the line for public transportation if it included (please rank first two options from 1 to 2 with 1 being most preferred, or select don't know):

- _____ Light rail
- _____ Inter-modal (combination of rail and other means of transport; for example; light rail or express bus service)
- _____ Don't know enough about those options to say

If the abandoned right-of-way were reactivated as a rail line for public transportation, what effect do you believe that would have on your neighborhood (please check all that apply)?

- Increase property values and/or rent
- Decrease property values and/or rent
- Increase crime
- Decrease crime
- Attract new and/or generate additional business activity
- Lead to gentrification
- Other. Please explain: _____

If the abandoned right-of-way were turned into a park, what effect do you believe that would have on your neighborhood (please check all that apply)?

- Increase property values and/or rent
- Decrease property values and/or rent
- Increase crime
- Decrease crime
- Attract new and/or generate additional business activity
- Lead to gentrification
- Don't know
- Other. Please explain: _____

If the abandoned right-of-way were reactivated as a rail line for public transportation, what effect do you believe that would have on the borough of Queens (please check all that apply):

- Increase tourism
- Attract new and/or generate additional business activity
- Lead to gentrification
- Lead to greater residential density
- Don't know
- Other. Please explain: _____

If the abandoned right-of-way were turned into a park, what effect do you believe that would have on the borough of Queens (please check all that apply)?

- Increase tourism
- Attract new and/or generate additional business activity
- Lead to gentrification
- Lead to greater residential density
- Don't know
- Other. Please explain: _____