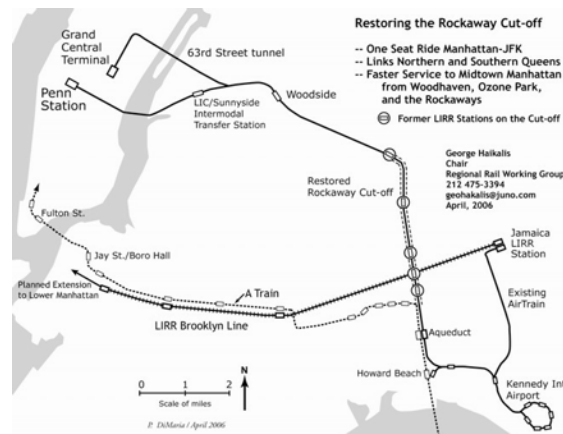


WHO WE ARE

The Regional Rail Working Group is a consortium of transit advocacy organizations whose goal is to improve mobility by advocating a regional rail system with fast and frequent service with affordable and integrated fares within the Tri-State area. The Regional Rail Working Group – Rockaway Subcommittee advocates reactivating the **LIRR Rockaway Line** to provide speedier rail service between Midtown Manhattan, Central/Southern Queens and the Rockaway Peninsula. It would also serve JFK Airport and the Aqueduct Racino. To do so we propose to restore the unused **LIRR Rockaway Right-of-Way** for rail service between the Rockaways and Penn Station and to areas of Queens not presently served by a north/south rail link, creating an easy one-seat ride between JFK and Midtown.

Requirements

- Recondition and restore the unused 4.2-mile rail bed, and rebuild and/or reinforce rail bridges to make this segment operable.
- A short track connection to the AirTrain would be constructed just south of the new Aqueduct Station.
- A fleet of specially designed rail cars that could operate on both LIRR (or subway) tracks and AirTrain.
- An across-the-platform transfer at the Aqueduct Station for **A** Line riders to obtain rail service to Midtown Manhattan and for airport passengers who require **A** service to Downtown Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan. This would be part of an Aqueduct Station Transit Hub complementing improvements made by the Racino developer.



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THE BENEFITS

- **REDUCED TRAVEL TIME:** Travel time from JFK and between south Queens and Midtown Manhattan would be cut in half.
- **REDUCED TRAFFIC CONGESTION:** Automobile traffic to the Racino and JFK and from Rockaway and Southeastern Queens would be replaced by train service, reducing delays and preventing frequent gridlock.
- **ENHANCED PROPERTY VALUES:** Property values would increase in proximity of the route between Midtown Manhattan and the Rockaway peninsula.
- **TOURISM/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Improved rail access would boost tourism and economic development between Midtown Manhattan and Rockaway peninsula.
- **INTEGRATED & AFFORDABLE FARES** An integrated and affordable regional fare structure that would be incorporated into the new Smart Card Technology

AMENITIES

- **NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION:** The unused right-of-way that currently gathers garbage and weeds would be landscaped and soundproofed. The restoration could include hiking paths, bikeways and playgrounds. Intermediate stations would be reopened in consultation with local communities.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS

- The project would cost about \$500 million, including physical improvements and rail cars.