

Join Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney at her

Town Meeting

for Long Island City and Western Queens

Dear Neighbors,

Long Island City and Western Queens are growing at an extraordinary rate.

As young families and new businesses move into the neighborhood, more transportation options are necessary. The Long Island City Links Project is designed to improve the transit options for residents, as well as enhance the local economy and heighten the quality of the neighborhood's public areas.

In this tight real estate market, Western Queens, with its sweeping views of the Manhattan skyline, is in a great position to attract new media, biotechnology, and other businesses critical to a growing economy. These businesses will only move to Queens if a viable internal transit network exists to accommodate their employees.

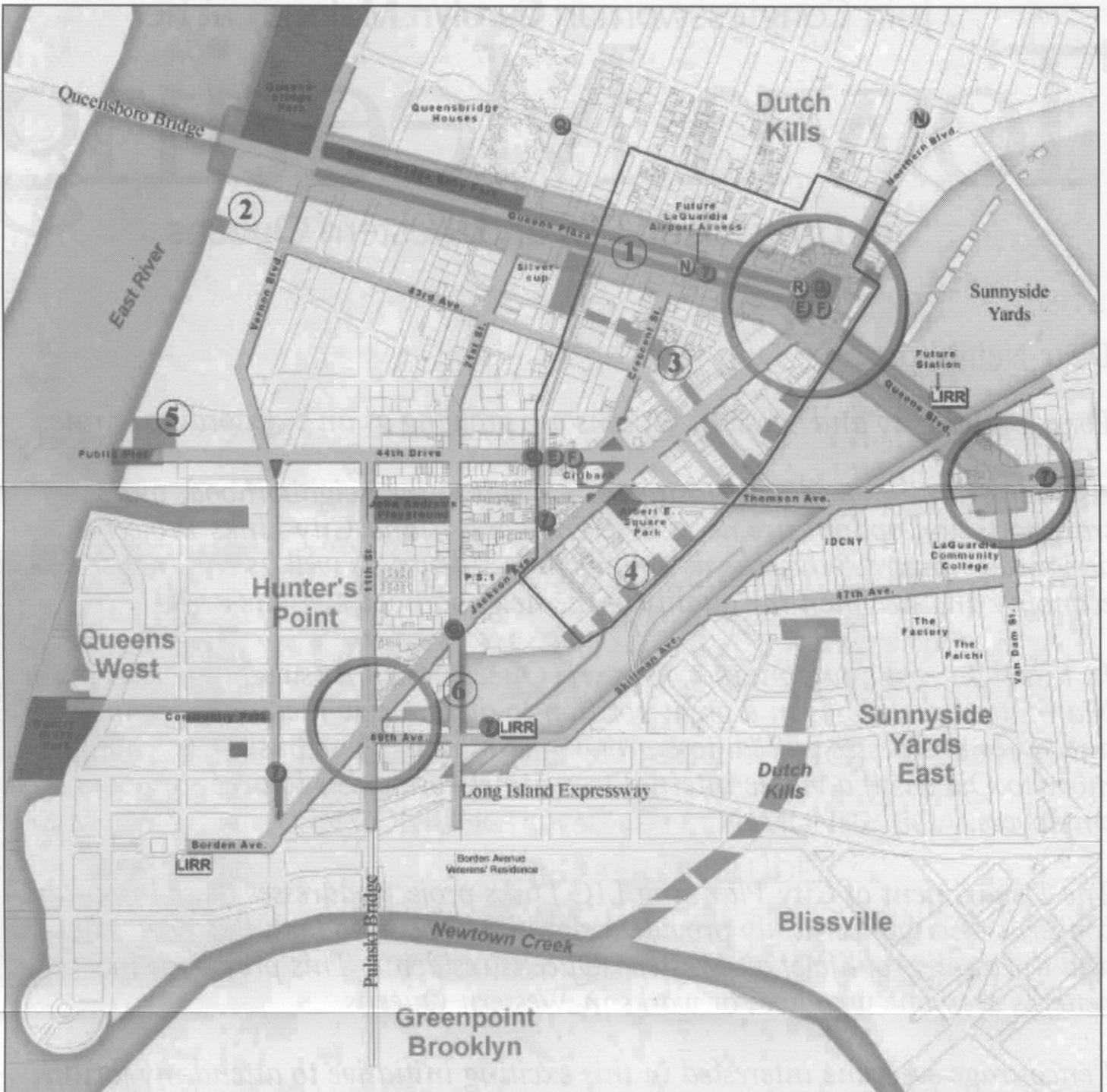
The Department of City Planning LIC Links project addresses these important concerns and will certainly provide a significant boon to both the local economy and the quality of life of all Western Queens residents. This project simply benefits everyone who lives or works in Western Queens.

*I encourage everyone interested in this exciting initiative to attend my forum **June 29th, 6 - 8 pm at the Citicorp building, One Court Square, 3rd Floor Cafeteria** to gather valuable information and learn about the tremendous benefits this project offers all Queens residents.*

Very truly yours,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



1 Queens Plaza Improvement Project (CMAQ Grant)

2 43rd Avenue Street End

3 Queensboro Bridge Ramp Land

4 Sunnyside Yard Street Ends

5 Anable Cove

6 21st Street Corridor



Streetscape Improvements



Gateways



DCP Rezoning Area

Long Island City: The New Business District

Long Island City is fast becoming a premiere financial center in New York City. Western Queens has become the business hub of choice for a myriad of businesses that are taking advantage of the area's close proximity to midtown.

Television stars made famous by the top-rated HBO shows "The Sopranos" and "Sex in the City" are often sighted strolling down Jackson Avenue and 21st Street near the sound stages at Silvercup Studios. The Museum of Modern Art is making the old Swingline factory its temporary home while it renovates its Manhattan location. Prompted by MoMA's move, the Sculpture Center, the Dorsky Gallery, and Materials for the Arts have all decided to move from Manhattan and settle permanently in Long Island City.

Long Island City was recently recognized by the *The Industry Standard* magazine as one of the top five new places to do business in the United States.

Business and government leaders must now reinforce the viability of the LIC economy by developing the Long Island City Links Project (LIC Links), a city planning initiative that would build much-needed pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections between Long Island City's residential neighborhoods and local commercial districts.

L.I.C. Links: Background

This project, developed by the Department of City Planning of New York City, has three goals:

■ **Restore Queens Plaza as the gateway** to Queens and Manhattan by redesigning the neighborhood around a central public pedestrian mall space. The cornerstone of the LIC Links project, this new central mall will mark western Queens as a destination for businesses and tourists alike and help ensure that the economic prosperity of LIC continues.

■ **Improve the medians** on Queens Plaza North and South and create a large central pedestrian plaza at the JFK Commuter Triangle. This will add much-needed trees, hedges, and other vegetation to the Queens Plaza area.

■ **Extend the sidewalks** on Queens Plaza North and South and provide space for a double row of trees, benches, and vending areas. Currently, the sidewalks are extremely narrow and allow pedestrians little room to walk through the area.

The primary beneficiaries of this project are the 8,000 residents of the Long Island City area and the

50,000 people who work in the manufacturing and industrial districts near the residential neighborhoods.

The project would also include the development of two publically sponsored development projects: the Queens West waterfront project and the LIC re-zoning initiative, which is estimated to add an additional 21,000 employees to the LIC business district.

In consultation with representatives of local cultural institutions (including the P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center and the Greater Astoria Historical Society), the Department of City Planning and the LIC Advisory Committee hope to design improvements on street lighting, directional signs, landscaping, pedestrian walkways, and bike paths. With the drastic improvements the LIC Links project provides, these cultural institutions are sure to become primary destinations for the thousands of New Yorkers and tourists to New York City.

The project will also create a shuttle bus network for the Long Island City neighborhood by modifying and expanding the local bus service to accommodate the rapidly growing residential population of Western Queens. Office workers, students, children, and families will all benefit from this new extensive bus system.

Benefits

By creating better transit connections, the city will ensure that current residents and employees of new businesses in Long Island City will both have a quick and unobstructed way to travel to work. Such changes within the structure of LIC's business district will help ensure the economic prosperity of western Queens.

Aside from the economic benefits of the initiative, the proposal will also improve the quality of life for the people of Western Queens. Every resident of this area is personally aware of the major traffic problems in Hunter's Point, Court Square, and Queens Plaza. LIC Links would alleviate these problems by reducing the number of vehicles and encouraging wide use of mass transit and pedestrian paths.

When this area was a manufacturing center, appearance was not a priority. As this area transforms into a residential and commercial center, it needs to be redesigned on a more human scale.

With better landscaping and more trees providing shade in the summer and a more inviting vista, Long Island City will become more attractive and inviting.

And with less traffic and more greenery, air quality should improve, helping to alleviate the area's reputation as "Asthma Alley" and improve the health of residents in the neighborhood.

M.C.

Carolyn B. Maloney



Official Business

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3214



June 29 6 - 8 pm
Citicorp Bldg.
1 Court Square
3rd Fl. Cafeteria

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IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMMUNITY BOARD 2

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

PENNY LEE, NYC DEPT. OF CITY PLANNING

JOE CONLEY, CHAIR, COMMUNITY BOARD 2