



EAST FARMINGDALE UPDATE

An Informational Update for Residents of the East Farmingdale Community

December 2014

Community Vision for East Farmingdale to Become a Reality

After multi-year community design process, Town receives proposals from potential developers

Members of the East Farmingdale community have long been discussing how to improve the character and functionality of the East Farmingdale downtown area, and a lot of work has been done since 2002 when then-Supervisor Steve Bellone called for the reopening of the LIRR Republic Station. Now, after years of planning, Supervisor Rich Schaffer is proud to announce that the Town of Babylon has received responses to a formal Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from potential developers of the project.



In March of 2009 residents of East Farmingdale began formally meeting to create a vision for a new downtown that would reflect the needs of the community. That meeting kicked off a two-year visioning process that included community meetings, walking tours of Airport Plaza and downtown Patchogue, a movie presentation of the major challenges facing our region, and a community design session.

The result of that process was a conceptual plan for the future of the area near Route 110 and Conklin Street, developed by renowned author and neighborhood designer Jeff Speck and based on the ideas of the community, which was presented in April 2011. It envisions new retail, residential, and office space, public green space, a beautiful station plaza for the reopened LIRR Republic Station, and a convention center, all designed in a traditional neighborhood style. It also incorporates a state-of-the-art Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that is planned to run along Route 110, ensuring quick and dependable service for commuters.

“The pieces are finally falling into place for East Farmingdale,” said Supervisor Rich Schaffer. “The LIRR is moving forward with the acceleration of the Double Track, we have received funding from the Federal Transit Administration for the next phase of BRT studies and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone has identified the Republic development as an important element of his regional transportation plan, *Connect Long Island*. Thanks to the hard work of the East Farmingdale community, we are prepared to implement the downtown area that residents have envisioned.”



Residents participate in a community design session as part of the hands-on visioning process.



Rendering of the central square from the conceptual plan presented to the community by Jeff Speck.



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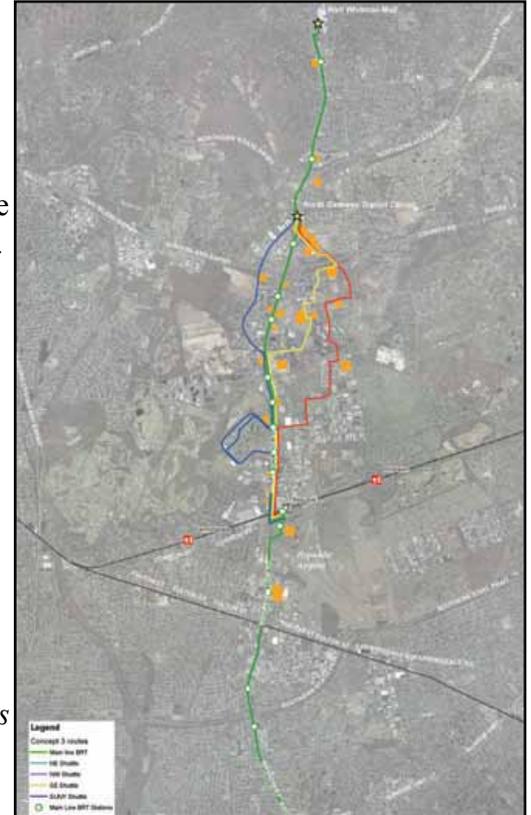
Town Receives Funding for Next Phase of BRT Study

In 2010, the Towns of Babylon and Huntington utilized funding secured by then-State Senator Charles Fuschillo to complete a study to investigate the feasibility of BRT on the Route 110 Corridor. Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc., who conducted the study, presented their results to over 50 members of the East Farmingdale community. The study concluded overwhelmingly that many of the distinctive BRT elements could be implemented quickly and easily to make buses a quick and desirable option for employees who commute on Route 110.

The Town was awarded a \$360,000 grant from the Federal Transit Administration last fall to continue investigation into the use of BRT on the Route 110 Corridor. This funding is allowing the Town to complete the FTA process known as an Alternatives Analysis to study the different routing and service options for a potential rapid transit system along Route 110.

BRT has been successful as a low-cost, highly-effective transit solution in many municipalities throughout the country. BRT systems operate like an express bus service, but with several distinct features including:

- *traffic priority signals and other traffic improvements to keep buses moving up and down a corridor*
- *elegant and distinctive stations that allow for safe and easy pedestrian access*
- *pre-payment of fares, allowing for quick boarding*
- *GPS systems to let riders know exactly when to expect the next bus*



A public meeting on the Route 110 transit study will be held Monday, December 15, 2014 at the East Farmingdale Fire House, 930 Conklin Street.

Doors open at 6:30, and a formal presentation begins at 7:00.

All community residents are encouraged to attend.

Republic TOD a Key Component in Suffolk County's Connect Long Island Plan

Connect Long Island is a comprehensive regional transportation and development plan that Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone has put forth that argues that an innovation economy and sustainable growth can be created by supporting Transit Oriented Developments (TODs) like the one envisioned by the East Farmingdale community.

The plan involves supporting TODs, while building a 21st Century transportation structure that connects development hubs to Long Island's major research and educational institutions, as well as innovation zones for emerging hi-tech companies.

"The Republic TOD project in East Farmingdale is an important component in a coordinated regional transportation and development plan, and a project that I feel a personal

connection to," said County Executive Bellone. "I watched as residents worked together for years to create their vision for a new downtown, which serves as a perfect example of the Transit Oriented Developments called for in *Connect Long Island*."

The project in East Farmingdale brings together many integral pieces of the *Connect Long Island* plan, including the Route 110 Corridor BRT, which will provide a necessary north-south mass transit connection, and a proximity to Farmingdale State College, a major educational asset on Long Island.