Port Authority Drops Transitway Plans

A decision last week by the Port Authority to shelve its proposal for the construction of the Queens Transitway—a two-lane roadway that was to be built along the unused spur of the Long Island Railroad's Rockaway Line—was praised by the borough's political and civic leaders as a "victory for the people.

The PA had been seeking to build the roadway to speed traffic to and from Kennedy Airport. Residents of communities bordering the route through central Queens bitterly opposed its construction as a threat to property values and the "quality of life" in the borough.

PA Executive Director Peter Goldberg Jr., in a letter to the State Transportation Department, said: "Financial pressures where the state and city, funding uncertainties, and other crucial priorities suggest to us, upon our internal review, that the transitway alternative be set aside."

In 1981, the cost of paving over the railroad right-of-way for vehicular traffic was estimated to be $98 million, a PA spokesman said. The transitway would have sliced through residential and commercial areas from Elmhurst to Howard Beach, as well as a woodland stretch of Forest Park.

Queens Borough President Donald Manz said he was "delighted the transitway proposal is being dropped." He hailed the decision as a "triumph for the communities that have long opposed this approach."

Senior Center Anniversary

On Friday, January 28, at 1:30 p.m., the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Center is celebrating 12 years of bringing activities and services to the elderly.

Over the past 12 years, the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Center has grown to become one of the largest senior centers in New York State and has serviced hundreds of thousands of seniors.

The center provides a comprehensive network of recreational, cultural, educational, and social services.

Congresspersons Geralinde Ferster, Tom Catapano; State Senator Tom Harrison J. Goidin; Assemblyperson Bartosiewicz; City Councilman Goldmark Jr., in a letter to the State Transportation Department, said: "Financial pressures where the state and city, funding uncertainties, and other crucial priorities suggest to us, upon our internal review, that the transitway alternative be set aside."

Construction progresses on the Bushwick II two-story Town Houses located on Central Avenue and Himrod Street. Work was stopped last year after several of the buildings collapsed.

Queens School Boards Refuse To Axe Teachers

The seven school boards in Queens have taken a united stand in refusing to submit to the schools chancellor's office lists of teachers to be laid off as a budget-cutting measure.

The boards run the risk of being superseded or suspended by Chancellor Frank Macchiarola if they disobey his demand to cooperate in the layoffs, a spokesman for Macchiarola warned.

Lorraine Paolino, chairman of the Queens Coalition Against the Proposed Transitway, said she was glad PA officials "came to their senses and decided to take the transitway proposal off the table."

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Senators who have participated in the center's outstanding growth and achievements are invited to attend. The program will include live entertainment, dancing, and free refreshments. For further information call Allison Jordan at 366-3046.

Parents Seek Crossing Guards

Parents of school children are dismayed over the loss of a crossing guard at the intersection of 68th Place and Myrtle Avenue.

It was reported that crossing guards had traditionally been placed on Myrtle Ave. at both 68th Pl and 68th St. to cover the children who attended P. S. 91, St. Pancras School, and Redeemer Lutheran School.

The police department noted that a temporary crossing guard had been placed at the 68th Pl. location, but was removed to cover a priority crossing at Woodhaven Blvd. at Union Turnpike.

“We are trying to locate the crossing guard who had worked originally at the 68th Pl. location so that slot can be filled again,” police said.

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