

Rep. Israel Joins Towns to Unveil Plans for Unprecedented Re-Development of 1.2 Million Square Feet Based On Mass Transit Innovation



Farmingdale, NY— Today, U.S. Congressman Steve Israel joined Babylon Supervisor Steve Bellone, New York State Senator Chuck Fuschillo, Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone and MTA/LIRR representatives to unveil a plan for a Transit Village in East Farmingdale centered around the re-opening of the Republic Train Station located on the LIRR main line, Route 110 and Conklin Ave.

“For too long, hardworking Long Islanders have had few alternatives other than sitting in traffic and burning through their gas tanks and wallets as they travel to jobs along the Route 110 Corridor,” said Congressman Israel, who founded the Route 110 Partnership before serving in the US Congress. “Today’s announcement is a victory for middle class Long Islanders and for businesses in the region and is an important step in our efforts to modernize the Route 110 Corridor.”

“This is the first step in a long range plan that emphasizes an alternative to auto access on the Route 110 corridor,” said Supervisor Bellone. “The transit oriented development plan will potentially add 1.2 million square feet of new retail, office, residential, entertainment and hotel uses. By converting traditional shopping centers and asphalt parking lots into vibrant community and business destinations we’re also doing great things for our environment by combating sprawl and remediating Brownfield sites.”

“New housing and commercial development near a proposed LIRR station may present an exciting opportunity,” said LIRR President Helena Williams. “We are eager to work with the Town of Babylon as they move their project forward. We have \$3.5 million in funding in the next proposed capital program to study a station and any adjoining mixed use residential and business development, future growth on Route 110 and ridership generated by the Cannon Headquarters on Old Walt Whitman Road. We will be looking at whether a ‘critical mass’ of customers will exist to warrant re-opening of the Republic LIRR station.”

“Continued smart-growth development along the Route 110 corridor will help enrich the local economy by attracting new businesses and creating new jobs for local residents,” said Senator Fuschillo. “Reopening the Republic Train Station and creating Bus Rapid Transit service will

help bring an influx of people to the area while reducing traffic on Route 110. I look forward to working together with the Towns of Babylon and Huntington and my partners in government to continue to create new economic development opportunities for our area through this innovative, long-range plan.” “This project represents the bright future of Long Island, said Matthew Crosson, President Long Island Association. “Creating mixed-use developments near Long Island Rail Road stations is exactly what the Island needs. It will attract new residents, especially younger people, as well as new businesses that will expand the tax base and help keep taxes low. It also will help create the kind of stimulating living environment that will keep our young people on Long Island. It’s a great idea whose time has come, as Babylon is proving.”

The East Farmingdale location originally included a train station which ceased operations in 1986, as the surrounding aircraft and defense industry went into decline. Since then the area became defined by a scattered mix of industrial, residential and highway retail uses.

Route 110, Long Island’s economic engine, is currently not directly served by a train station. “Creating this new station, with surrounding transit oriented development, is an opportunity to increase employment options using mass transit and increase LIRR ridership from both east and west,” said Supervisor Frank Petrone, Chairman of the Route 110 Partnership

In addition to the development of potentially 1.2 million square feet, it is envisioned that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service will connect commuters from Republic Train Station to job and educational centers along the Route 110 Corridor. “As the Suffolk County representative to the MTA Board, it has been one of my highest priorities to increase both the use of mass transit and to provide for MTA assistance with regard to transit oriented development in our community,” said Mitchell Pally. “I can assure you that the MTA and LIRR will be a great partner in creating the ‘critical mass’ necessary to bring a new railroad station to the commercial heart of Long Island.” “Farmingdale University is located on the Route 110 Corridor and many of the students travel from New York City and surrounding areas, said Dr. Keen, President Farmingdale University. “This project is important to the future development of the Route 110 corridor and to the Town of Babylon and we hope to contribute to the project in various ways.”