What is the LIRR Expansion Project?

The LIRR Expansion Project from Floral Park to Hicksville, one of the region’s most significant transportation infrastructure projects, will improve mass transit, reduce traffic congestion, protect the environment, and enhance the quality-of-life for communities along the Main Line. Major project elements include the elimination of seven grade crossings, new parking facilities, upgrades to railroad infrastructure and passenger rail stations, and other local improvements.

The completed project will enable more robust and reliable rail service, make living and working on Long Island easier and ensure Long Island’s economic prosperity now and for the next century. The project began in January 2018 and is anticipated to be completed by late 2022.
Meet 3TC
In December 2017, a design-build contract was awarded for the LIRR Expansion Project, kicking off the next phase of this crucial infrastructure initiative. Several expert firms joined together to form the design-build consortium known as 3rd Track Constructors (3TC), comprising Dragados USA, Inc., John P. Picone Inc., CCA Civil, Inc., and Halmar International LLC, with Stantec as the design professional.

To promote job growth and contract opportunities, 3TC will endeavor to meet New York State’s 15 percent minority, 15 percent women-owned business enterprise (MWBE) and 6 percent service-disabled veteran-owned businesses (SDVOB) participation goals.

Recent Project Milestones
- December 2017, design-build contract with 3TC approved by MTA Board.
- A Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP) was issued on January 26, 2018 for 3TC to officially commence Pre-Construction and Early Start Work.
- The Community Benefits Fund opened in January 2018. The fund enables communities to offset project-related impacts, such as planting trees in front of construction zones.
- 3TC performed site surveying and geotechnical borings along the project corridor.
- Design of several project elements advanced, along with community consultation regarding aesthetics.

Commencement of Early Work
In January 2018, MTACC issued to 3TC a LNTP, which allows necessary early activities to begin, such as advancing engineering design, field surveys, finalizing contractual and insurance processes, on-boarding subconsultants and continuing the project’s robust community outreach program. Substantial construction along with a full Notice to Proceed (NTP) is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2018.

As planned and on schedule, 3TC has progressed the engineering designs beyond the conceptual level and has commenced necessary data collection efforts, including property surveying, geotechnical boring investigations and utility coordination. Design of the project is currently proceeding and is expected to be completed in 2018. In some locations along the corridor, early preparatory construction activities are underway.

Building an Integrated Team
During the first half of 2018, one of the team’s primary goals was to lay a foundation for all the work ahead. A critical step was opening the co-located office for the entire project team in Westbury. This space is meant to foster communications and interactions with all disciplines, from the structural engineers to the community ambassadors.

What’s Ahead
- Vegetation control, an important component of maintaining the LIRR right-of-way, will continue.
- Pre-construction inspections of the existing conditions of structures surrounding worksites will begin.
- The Community Information Center will continue to develop and new exhibits will continue to be added.
- A detailed construction schedule will continue to be developed during the pre-construction stage.
- Ambassadors will host “open house” office hours in community libraries and other locations.

3TC in Your Community
3TC has coordinated with the Villages and Towns to keep them updated on the current activities, including surveying and geotechnical investigations. In conjunction with community leaders, tailored “look-ahead narratives” have been prepared for each community and posted to the website, providing the most pertinent project information for each neighborhood. Coordination regarding these planned activities has enabled the project team to adjust the schedule where feasible to accommodate specific community needs and/or unforeseen circumstances. The project team has coordinated with community leaders regarding project aesthetics, such as retaining and sound wall colors and patterns.
Community Conversations

During the first half of 2018, MTA/LIRR joined 3TC for a series of introductory meetings with Village officials throughout the corridor. These meetings served as an opportunity to establish points of contact for each Village and introduce the community ambassadors.

Technical meetings were also held to discuss each Village’s areas of interest, including rail station design aesthetics and garage construction schedules. 3TC’s Ambassadors have attended local community meetings and engaged in door-to-door outreach. Ongoing community outreach efforts is a priority of the entire 3TC team.

Meet Your Ambassadors

3TC introduced “The Ambassador Program,” assigning specific representatives to each community to ensure that every neighborhood has a dedicated liaison.

- Floral Park and New Hyde Park: Judy White & Camille Koorey
- Garden City: Katherine Heaviside & Andy Kraus
- Mineola, Town of North Hempstead - New Cassel, Town of Oyster Bay: Gary Lewi & Seth Sylvan
- Westbury and Carle Place: Margo Cargill

In case of an emergency, please call 911 before alerting 3TC. Safety is our priority.

Meet the Project Executives

Mark Roche
MTACC Project Executive

Mr. Roche is a civil and structural engineer who has worked in the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia and the Americas on a wide range of complex multi-disciplinary bridge, rail and highway projects including the innovative replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge (the new Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge).

Robert Wessels
3TC Project Executive

Mr. Wessels has had the privilege of working for John P. Picone, Inc. for over 20 years and has experienced first-hand the company’s ability to complete highly technical projects using both old and new methodologies as well as developing unique creative solutions.