

**Metropolitan Transportation Authority Public Hearing  
January 21, 2009**

**Testimony of Councilman Edward A. Ambrosino**

Mr. Ambrosino: The Chairman, Madam Presidents, Members of the Board, I want to thank you very much for giving me the opportunity and giving all these people the opportunity of speaking before you tonight.

When you look at the Long Island Rail Road, you look at the lifeblood to Long Island. I'm here for two specific reasons. First, I'm here to speak on behalf of all these people behind us.

Mass transportation is not a luxury, it's not an option, it's an absolute necessity. It's feeding the mouths of our children, it's bringing us to work, it's making us productive members of society.

We absolutely understand the need to balance your budget but we ask that you look, dig deep, dig hard and not to take it out on these people's pockets before you've exercised every opportunity to find it elsewhere.

In addition, as a councilman for the Second Councilmatic District, we have two vibrant developments going on. In West Hempstead, after a three-year fight working with one developer, we were able to enter into a transit-oriented development with the Trammel Crow Company.

We need the Long Island Rail Road as a vein to that development. It is a necessity. The West Hempstead Train Station is vital and integral to our redevelopment of that area.

And in addition, at the Belmont Racetrack with the Elmont visioning community, we are undergoing a massive revitalization of that area too. The Long Island Rail Road is a necessary arm to that development.

We ask, we plead, we beg, we cajole, please do not eliminate the Long Island Rail Road as a lifeblood to those two developments.

The MTA is an acronym for Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

It does not stand for Money to Albany. Thank you very much.