



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

Airtrain Derailed....

The Port Authority of NY/NJ has completed its study on public transit to the new LaGuardia Airport. It has declined to endorse any sort of rail, ferry, or subway service to the airport, and instead has opted to support a shuttle bus from the end of the NW line at Ditmars Blvd in Astoria, and a revamping of the Q70 service from Jackson Heights, including creating a bus only lane on the northbound BQE. Please [click here for their press release and report.](#)

We do understand that Cost was the determining factor, so in these difficult times it is understandable that the cheapest alternative is very attractive. While we do not oppose the decision at this time to provide surface bus service only, we urge that as economic conditions change, we readdress the use of a light rail service. For this is the most effective way to get vehicles off the road, and lead to a cleaner environment.

We want to emphasize that, from a REGIONAL logistic standpoint, an Airtrain from Jamaica makes the most sense.

OANA was invited to a presentation of their decision last Friday, the 10th of March. There we reiterated our support of an AirTrain linking with the JFK Airtrain at Jamaica. Please [click here](#) for a full rundown of our position. Major points are the regional coverage that the Jamaica link would provide, including Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island, with the largest number of subway and LIRR intersections. We also feel that use of the N line and shuttle will be limited, as stations such as 59th st have many stairs, making carrying luggage difficult. Also, it does not interchange with Penn or Grand Central Stations. And we question whether the creation of a Bus-Only lane on the crowded BQE will cause more problems than it solves.

Also, we feel that the creation of a ferry stop at the Marine Air terminal would be an obvious, cost-effective choice to implement as complementary to other options.

While many in Queens oppose the Airtrain as they want to avoid the inconvenience of construction, plus they do not see a large local benefit (We do not disagree), we must remember this is a regional system. If we want people off the roads (especially interborough or suburban transit), we must provide them with viable alternatives.

And remember that our Airports' are Queen's largest economic drivers, and should be complimented with the best in state of the art infrastructure.