

March 5, 2010

The Honorable Tim Bishop
3680 Route 112, Suite C
Coram, NY 11727

RE: Port Jefferson-Wading River Trail

Dear Representative Bishop,

I applaud you for securing \$8 million dollars from the East End scenic byways to for the Port Jefferson-Wading River Trail. Despite this infusion of money into the project, it is currently going nowhere. The Port Jefferson-Wading River Trail project has been delayed again as lawyers between LIPA and Suffolk County argue over rights to LIPA expansion plans that could derail the project.

LIPA wants the right to tear up the trail if it needs to install additional utilities. FHWA will not permit funds to be invested without assurance the trail will be in use for its service life. I am very concerned because if there is much further delay federal funds for the project could be withdrawn.

Surely the alignment of the trail can be worked out between LIPA and Suffolk County so that the alignment of the trail has minimum impact on LIPA expansion plans. There are numerous examples elsewhere where trails have been built on utility ROWs.

I would greatly appreciate if you would intercede between Suffolk County and LIPA to help them bridge their differences. Suffolk County and the public stand to benefit by this agreement. LIPA will benefit by having unfettered access to the power line ROW and lower maintenance costs. The construction of a shared use path on LIPA property will be seen as a gesture of goodwill by Long Islanders and the local community which would be reciprocated by your customers and in the long run would enable LIPA to work in a more cooperative and less adversarial role with your customers.

The development of the Port Jefferson Wading River Trail will benefit thousands of residents in communities along this corridor by providing a safe place to walk and bike for recreation, commuting, school and shopping trips. This project will also provide economic benefits to the community through tourism that will be generated that will support local businesses and create jobs.

I hope you will be successful in resolving these remaining differences to get the agreement signed between LIPA and Suffolk County and to finally get this project off the ground.

I look forward to cycling the Port Jefferson-Wading River Trail in a few short years which will be a major benefit to northern Brookhaven and surrounding communities.

Please give this request your fullest consideration.

Sincerely,