



**MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION**  
*Eminent Domain for LaGuardia Air Train*

A.11158 (Aubry)  
Governor's Program Bill No. 18, Air Train

An ACT to amend the transportation law and the highway law, in relation to authorizing an airport mass transit project at LaGuardia airport;

**Summary of Legislation**

This legislation would grant eminent domain authority to construct an air train to LaGuardia Airport from Citi Field over the World's Fair Marina Promenade park space, directly through Flushing Bay, and/or onto the Grand Central Parkway highway median near the community of East Elmhurst.

**Statement in Opposition**

The proposed routes have not been vetted, and no ridership study has been completed. Instead of pursuing a robust public process, this legislation cuts the New York City Council, Mayor and residents out of the extraordinary decision to exercise eminent domain to condemn valuable New York City parkland and allows construction of an Air Train through a densely populated neighborhood.

The Legislation deprives a community already starved for parks from participating in the typical parkland alienation process and from receiving the substitute park space it would otherwise be entitled to after construction of the Air Train.

Thousands of boaters take to Flushing Bay each year. Even more New Yorkers utilize the Promenade and historic World's Fair Marina for recreation and boat launching. In addition to people, the waters are home to many wetland species, such as oysters, blue crabs, flounder, striped bass, and great blue heron. An Air Train there would disrupt recreational opportunities at the park and destroy local ecological habitats.

This bill, being rushed to a vote without public scrutiny, amounts to a land grab of City parkland. The Federal Aviation Administration will soon undertake an environmental review of potential Air Train alternatives to include this proposed route through the Grand Central Parkway/Flushing Bay corridor. There is no reason this legislation cannot wait until that process is complete and informs the decision to route an Air Train through New York City parkland.

**Riverkeeper strongly opposes this legislation.**

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