

## A Pledge of Performance

By Mike Guter, Design Build Coordinator, 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Constructors

*As told to Gary Lewi, Ambassador Program Supervisor*

We are empowered to know that our work will be judged for generations to come as nothing less than historic. Improving and enhancing the country's largest and busiest commuter railroad is a privilege. Just ask the men and women who worked at Grumman during the 1960s when they were building the lunar module. Their work is a permanent part of history as will be the LIRR Expansion Project.

From construction supervisors to civil engineers, from landscape arborists to laborers, the project's diverse workforce has a connection to this project that is unique because we have been assigned the task of building our region's mass transit future.

Reviewing the assignment, one can state that this is among the more challenging public works projects of our time because our construction team is tasked with minimizing the potential inconvenience our work will create for hundreds of thousands of people.

Our list of responsibilities is long, and they include protecting the quality of life for those in homes, businesses and parks adjacent to the tracks, coordinating with first responders who can't be delayed because of temporary street closures, opening 24/7 lines of communication with all of our stakeholders, and getting the work finished in the shortest possible time so that the communities touched by the project can resume their lives without the interruption major construction will bring.

The construction sequence is complicated, and each element requires documentation that runs hundreds of pages to ensure every issue is anticipated and assigned for resolution. These responsibilities will challenge every member of our team, but we recognize that there is no room for second best when building this project.

Transit experts have spent considerable time explaining the strategic benefits of the LIRR Expansion Project. They note it will exponentially strengthen the region's economy by providing East Side Access at Grand Central, improving peak train service and reliability, vastly improving reverse commuting and creating a far more robust Main Line for the nation's busiest commuter rail line.

Our task is to make that vision a reality with a team dedicated to a single mission: to bring this project in on time, on budget, safely, and to do so while respecting the communities along the LIRR's right-of-way.

You have my personal promise that there will not be a single day of this project when we are not seeking to fulfill that pledge of performance.

A better commute • Less congestion • Cleaner Air • Safer, quieter crossings  
Station improvements & parking • Better jobs • Stronger economy • Noise reduction

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