

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
811 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.  
ALBANY, NY 12247  
PHONE: (518) 455-2322  
FAX: (518) 426-6875

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
84-16 JAMAICA AVENUE  
WOODHAVEN, NY 11421  
PHONE: (718) 738-1111  
FAX: (718) 296-0495

**SATELLITE OFFICE:**  
66-85 73RD PL  
MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379  
PHONE: (718) 497-1630  
FAX: (718) 497-1761

**e-mail:**  
addabbo@nysenate.gov



**SENATOR**  
**JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.**  
15<sup>TH</sup> SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
**MAJORITY DEPUTY WHIP**

**CHAIRMAN**  
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

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MILITARY AFFAIRS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
STATE-NATIVE AMERICAN RELATIONS

October 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for study on future use of Rockaway Beach Branch Line

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I hope this letter finds you well. In 1962, New York City ceased service on the Rockaway Beach Branch rail corridor, which had previously served as the borough's only north-south rail line, effectively disconnecting numerous communities from key resources such as employment, education, and recreational opportunities.

As discussions continue on how to best address the transportation and recreational needs of Queens, particularly in the southern part of the borough, which has historically faced socioeconomic challenges, this corridor presents a unique opportunity for further evaluation.

To ensure that any future development on this corridor is guided by a thorough and comprehensive understanding of its potential impacts, I respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation provide funding for the Rockaway Beach Branch Community Equity Analysis. This study, at a cost of \$500,000, would gather critical data on the environmental, economic, and quality-of-life impacts of various potential uses of the corridor, allowing for an informed decision on the best path forward.

By conducting this analysis, we can ensure that the needs of all communities in Queens are carefully considered, and that future transportation and recreational infrastructure serves to benefit residents across the borough equitably.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. I look forward to working together to improve transportation equity and connectivity for the people of Queens.

Sincerely,  
Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.  
New York State Senate  
15th District

- Thank You!