

# QueensWay: Metropolitan Hub

Located between Metropolitan Ave and Union Turnpike

October | 2023

# Agenda

- Background and Site Context
- QueensWay Project History
- Previous Engagement and Advocacy
- The Metropolitan Hub
- Agency Roles | Consultant Overview
- Next Steps

# Background and Site Context

- **Pre-1950:** LIRR ran trains on the Rockaway Beach Branch (RBB), connecting Penn Station and Atlantic Terminal to the Rockaways
- **1952:** LIRR ends service in the line's middle section after a fire across Jamaica Bay
- **1956:** City of New York converted southern section via the A train into subway line
- **1962:** LIRR abandoned all service on northern section from Penn Station to Howard Beach
- **Today:** The abandoned line is under City ownership with ~39 acres under the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) jurisdiction and ~8 acres held by NYC Department of Parks & Recreation



Long Island Rail Road Station at Metropolitan Avenue

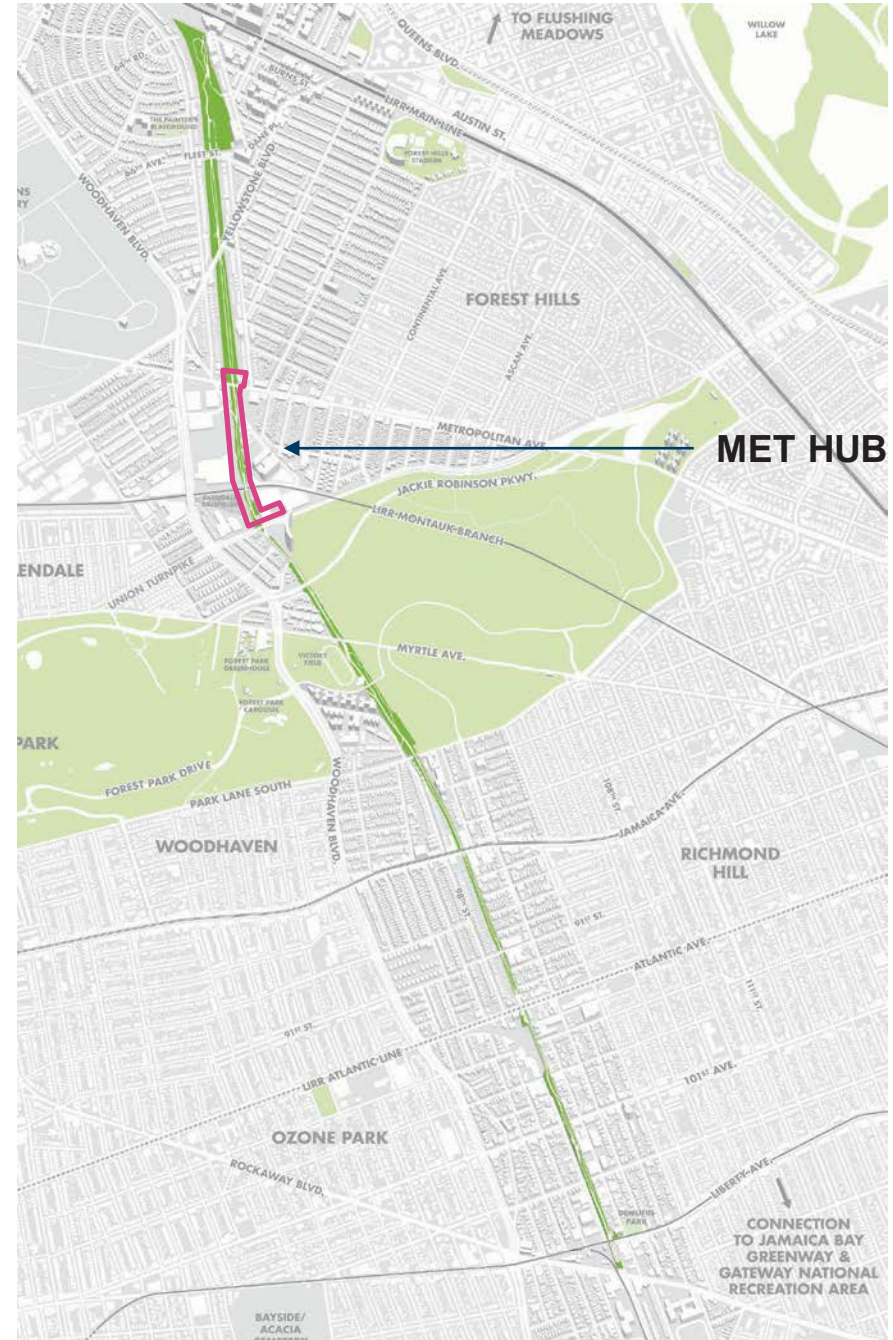


LIRR train at Metropolitan Ave. in 1955

# QueensWay Project History

The QueensWay project is a proposed 3.5-mile linear park and cultural greenway with Forest Park at its heart

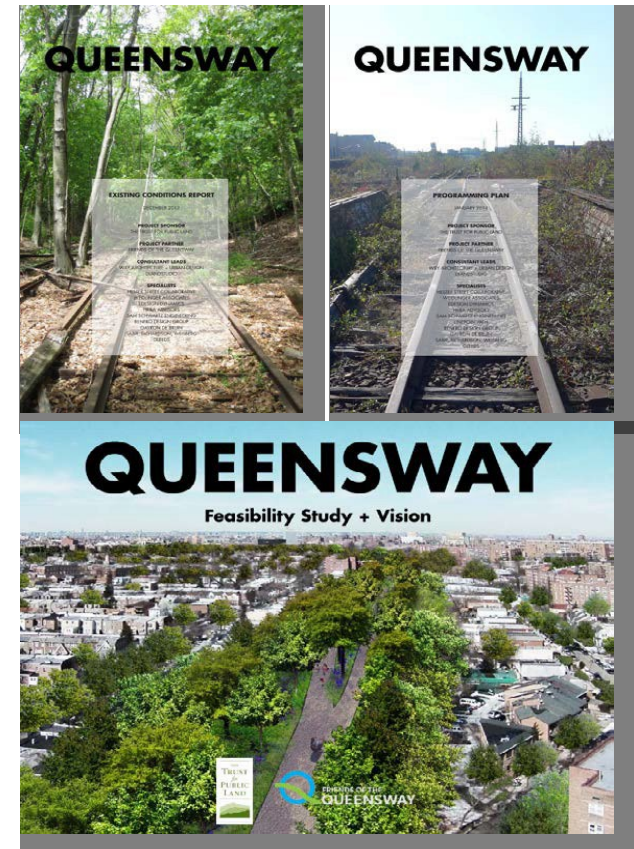
- 2011- Friends of the QueensWay (FQW) enters partnership with Trust for Public Land to gather local input and support to develop a plan for the former LIRR rail
- 2014- FQW receives grants from NYS Parks and the Regional Development Council and commissions TPL to analyze challenges and opportunities in converting the land into a new public park
  - NYS Parks and The Regional Development Council also provides a grant to design a first half-mile section of the QueensWay—Metropolitan Hub.



# Previous Engagement and Advocacy

The Trust for Public Land commissioned the QueensWay Vision Plan to assess the challenges and opportunities associated with the conversion of the former LIRR line into a new public park

- The QueensWay and Metropolitan Hub vision grew out of five large public meetings, 30 workshops and meetings with community groups, and hundreds of stakeholder discussions.
- Common themes mentioned in these meetings included both active and passive uses such as:
  - Bike / Pedestrian Paths
  - Outdoor Classrooms / meeting areas / sitting areas
  - Science/Environmental Demonstration
  - Landscaping and garden areas

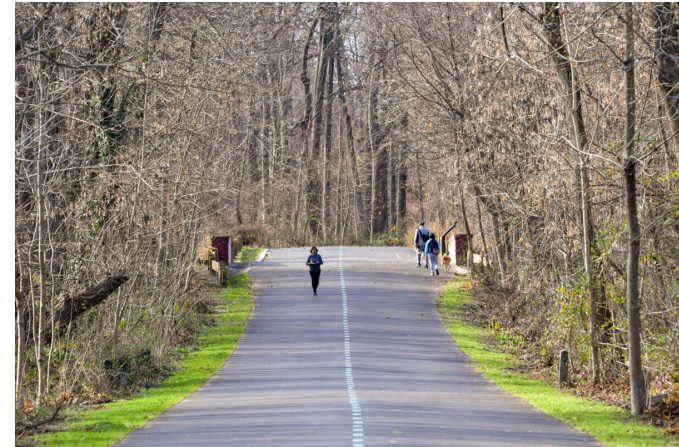
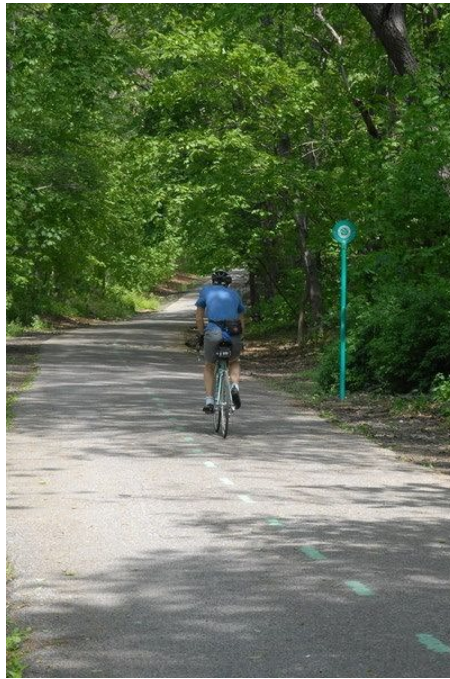


QueensWay Plan  
Master Planning process with TPL  
(WXY & DLAND) 2013-2014

# The Metropolitan Hub

In September 2022, Mayor Adams committed \$35 million, with \$2.5 million from the NYC Council for design and construction of the Metropolitan Hub (MetHub)

- The MetHub sits North of Union Turnpike and adjacent to the Metropolitan High School complex.
- This project will transform a vacant, city-owned corridor in Forest Hills into a five-acre park with:
  - 0.7 miles of greenway
  - New open space
  - Improved access to recreational amenities
  - Outdoor education opportunities for students
  - Safe transportation corridor connecting people to schools, businesses, and bus lines.



Vanderbilt Motor Pkway,

# MetHub Rendering: Entry from Metropolitan Avenue



SOURCE: Trust for Public Land

# Agency Roles | Consultant Overview

The Metropolitan Hub will be a public park to be operated and maintained by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks). NYCEDC will manage construction.

- Since the 2022 announcement, NYCEDC retained design consultant Techno and landscape architect Sasaki
- NYC Parks, NYCEDC, and Techno are now working to:
  - Advance TPL's design and bring it to Parks standards





# Next Steps

Fall 2023:

- Developing preliminary design concepts aligned with NYC Parks Review
- Elected and Community Engagement

Early 2024:

- CB Review
- NYC Public Design Commission Review