Transit Oriented Development & Station Access

- Accommodating Growth in MTA's Suburban Territory

May 20, 2019
Transit-Oriented Development - walkable, mixed-use development near MTA stations - will be the best means to accommodate future suburban growth. It does this in a sustainable fashion:

- Increases transit use
- Accommodates growth, minimizes sprawl
- Creates real estate value
- Benefits local communities
  - Reduces traffic on local streets
  - Meets required housing needs
  - Increases tax base
  - Improves station-area neighborhoods
Current Land Use Near Stations Emphasizes Parking

More than half of suburban commuters drive to station and park

Current* AM Peak Access Modes
• From 2017/2018 MNR Origin and Destination study and 2014 LIRR Origin and Destination Study
More Sprawl Creates New Parking Demand

- Multi-family housing is now the primary form of suburban housing development
- Despite an increasing desire to live near stations, not enough TOD housing is constructed
- Risk of “high-density sprawl” which creates new demand for station parking
Most Commuter Parking is Municipally Controlled

The majority of lots are municipally controlled.
MTA TOD Opportunities are Limited
MTA TOD at Harrison Station

• Harrison Station development will create apartments, retail shops and new commuter parking
  o 143 new apartments with residents who don’t need dedicated station parking
  o Land value will finance additional commuter parking
  o The station area will be improved with retail shops, public space and station drop-off areas

Harrison Project: 143 new apartments, increase parking capacity, upgrade pedestrian environment
This is what TOD can look like

Town of Babylon replaced surface parking lots at Wyandanch station.
Wyandanch/Double Track Ribbon Cutting
Encourage TOD at stations where MTA does not own land, promote joint development of parking and other uses and facilitate alternative modes of station access.

Mineola:
Mineola has advanced several large, multifamily developments in close proximity to Mineola Station.

Farmingdale:
Farmingdale has encouraged a large-scale redevelopment of the area around Farmingdale Station to facilitate a more walkable downtown.

Village of Freeport:
LIRR and Freeport will relocate commuter parking for a 250 unit TOD with 63 units of dedicated senior housing.

Nanuet (Town of Clarkstown):
Metro-North actively participated in the Town’s TOD Plan for Nanuet station and continues to coordinate with the Town as they work towards reviewing impacts of their Draft TOD zoning.

Port Chester:
The Village supports development near the station and has facilitated discussions concerning access improvements with Metro-North and developers.
“First/Last Mile” Initiatives Should Complement TOD

- Physical and customer-related station area improvements should encourage drop off and connecting services
  - Ingress/egress Improvements
  - Kiss & Ride
  - Pedestrian enhancements

- Counties and municipalities can encourage first/last-mile solutions:
  - Mobility-as-a-Service
  - Enhanced bus/shuttle services
  - NYMTC grant to create toolkit; identify local pilot project communities
Key Takeaways

• Park & Ride dominates today, but there are limitations and costs to continuing this model and the reliance on parking lots constrains growth.
• Development adjacent to stations accommodates regional smart growth and generates local and MTA benefits
• We need to partner with local governments to advance their land use policies
• In working with local communities we need to encourage station access improvements and a variety of first mile-last mile approaches