

IMPROVING GROUND ACCESS TO JFK AIRPORT-ADVANCED STUDIO

Many world cities have one seat transit rides to their major airports. Among the N.Y.-N.J.'s three major airports(JFK,LaGuardia and Newark) this does not exist! This condition is especially critical for JFK as the region's aviation hub with the potential to increase its capacity by up to 50%.With more passengers, comes the need for better ground access options. What can be done to improve transit access to JFK?

This subject has had a long history .The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's "Grand Plan" of transit improvements in the late 1960's, advanced the idea of reactivating the Rockaway Beach Branch of the Long Island Rail Road. Nothing was implemented. In the 1970's-1980's a subway to a bus at Howard Beach to JFK terminals was initiated. This three seat ride proved to be very inconvenient and time consuming. In the early 1990's, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey advanced the idea of using an automated guideway transit system(AGT) originating on the Manhattan side of the Queensboro Bridge .Only a portion of this project was initiated at Jamaica and Howard Beach in Queens .Bus or rail is required to transfer to the AGT for a two seat ride. In the wake of 9-11, New York Governor George Pataki proposed rail access from lower Manhattan using existing and additional infrastructure. However, the estimated \$6 billion+ cost of the project made this idea not feasible especially given all the other costs of infrastructure repair and replacement. A myriad of other ideas have been floated during the past half century.

With this background,what can be done to improve access to JFK?Can the AGT or Air Train be improved as a one seat ride to the CBD? Should the Rockaway Beach Branch be reactivated with a new service that terminates at JFK?How will JFK be able to handle the increased auto traffic especially given the aging highway and parkway infrastructure?Are there other modal options that should also be explored? The various ground access options will be explored and a preferred option(s) will be advanced.

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