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Contact: Rosemary Mascali, rmascali@transitsolutions.org; 516-242-8121

Long Island Communities Embrace Car Free Day – September 22

Planned events include “Mobility in Suffolk” Summit and Free Coffee and Bagels for Wyandanch Commuters

Long Island will be joining 1500 cities in 40 countries around the world in celebrating tomorrow’s International Car Free Day. For the 3rd Annual Car Free Day Long Island, over 2,400 Long Islanders have already pledged to leave their cars home or drive less, and try more sustainable modes of travel instead.

Once again, several Long Island municipalities will be hosting Car Free Day celebrations in their communities. Continuing to lead the charge is County Executive Steve Bellone who has encouraged County employees and residents to join him in being car free or car-lite by taking mass transit, walk, bike or carpool to work, to help reduce traffic, conserve energy, reduce harmful emissions and save money. The County has numerous activities planned including the “Mobility in Suffolk Summit” at the H. Lee Dennison building in Hauppauge that will feature panel discussions on Bus Rapid Transit, bikeshare and downtown walkability and development. The County will also make food trucks available for lunch at the event to avoid the need for employees and visitors to drive. “Car Free Day highlights the fact that attractive, affordable 21st-century public transportation is key to the future of Suffolk County,” said Bellone.

The Town of Babylon will be celebrating Car Free Day at Wyandanch Village, highlighting one of the most significant Transit Oriented Development initiatives on Long Island. “Car Free Day is a fantastic initiative and I can’t think of a more fitting place to mark the occasion than Wyandanch Village,” said Babylon Town Supervisor Rich Schaffer. “With so many transportation options in one place, every resident has the opportunity to make a difference by using sustainable modes of travel.”

Early morning Wyandanch commuters will be greeted with free coffee and bagels, courtesy of Wyandanch Village developer Albanese Organization and NYCB/Roslyn Savings Bank, who will be opening a branch there in the fall. “When this Car Free Day event was announced, New York Community Bank was happy to get involved. NYCB/Roslyn Savings Bank’s Wyandanch branch team is proud to be part of the local landscape, even before our branch doors open. We look forward to meeting all of our Wyandanch neighbors, and participating in more wonderful community focused events like this in the future”, explains NYCB’s Wyandanch Branch Manager, Carlene Thomas.

Those who pledge at the event for Car Free Day LI will also be eligible for a special raffle for a free month of parking at the new Wyandanch Parking Facility. Exhibitors will also be on hand to provide commuters with useful information from the Town of Babylon, 511NYRideshare, Transit Solutions, Wyandanch Village, Roslyn Savings Bank, and Commuter Benefit Solutions.

"As Long Island celebrates its 3rd annual Car Free Day, we are pleased Wyandanch Village was chosen as one of the locations to commemorate this day because of the many car-free options available close by," said Albanese Organization's Chairman, Russell Albanese. "Residents can choose to take the LIRR, the Suffolk County Transit bus, walk, or bike. We are happy to participate in this event because it highlights sustainability as well as growth for alternate forms of travel."

Commuters, students and residents can pledge to go car free or car-lite at the Car Free Day LI website (www.carfreedayli.com). Whether commuting to work or school, or running errands around town, using your car less qualifies for participation in Car Free Day LI. Even those who are already using commute alternatives can take the pledge. Participants are eligible to win raffle prizes including commuter bikes, gift cards, and theater and sports tickets.

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