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Contact: Lisa Belinsky, lblinsky@transitsolutions.org ; 516-242-8121

Long Island Leaders Rally support for the 7th Annual Car Free Day Long Island Set for Friday, September 20th

Farmingdale State College President Dr. John S. Nader, NYSDOT LI Regional Director Joseph Brown and LIRR President Phillip Eng gathered with other Long Island leaders in holding a rally for Long Island Mobility Week (September 14-20) and encouraging Long Islanders to leave their cars at home for the 7th Annual Car Free Day Long Island on Friday, September 20, 2019. The rally, held at the Farmingdale State College campus, highlighted the impact of single-occupancy vehicles on our health, economy and environment and more sustainable transportation choices, as well as the planned events and activities during the second annual Long Island Mobility Week.

Long Islanders are once again being asked to use more sustainable travel choices this Friday, September 20 for the 7th Annual Car Free Day Long Island. Commuters are being encouraged to choose transit, carpooling, bicycles, walking, telecommuting, or just driving less that day to help reduce traffic, conserve energy, reduce harmful emissions, improve fitness, reduce parking problems and save money. ***In 2018, 7,325 Long Islanders pledged to be car free or car-lite, saving 148,000 miles of driving and 73 tons of CO2 emissions.***

Car Free Day is an international event celebrated in over 2,800 cities and 54 countries that encourages drivers to leave their cars at home for the day. On Long Island, Car Free Day is organized by a broad-based group of Long Island leaders from major business, civic and environmental groups, universities and municipalities.

“Car Free Day is a great opportunity for Farmingdale State College to encourage students to use public transportation options and take advantage of our highly successful shuttle service which connects the LIRR station to the campus, our Aviation Center and the Village of Farmingdale,” said FSC President John Nader. “We hope to expand this service in the year ahead. Our Commuter webpage, as well as continuing partnerships with Transit Solutions and 511 Rideshare, underscore our commitment to reducing reliance on automobiles.”

He was joined by LIRR President Phillip Eng, who stated: “As the country’s busiest commuter railroad with ever-growing ridership, the LIRR recognizes the need to invest in viable public transportation options to get people out of their cars, to help reduce traffic congestion, and lessen the region’s carbon footprint. The LIRR is in the midst of a multibillion-dollar modernization effort, one that will bring reliable service to our customers and truly help this region thrive. With more than 89 million trips logged last year alone, the LIRR enthusiastically supports efforts like Car Free Day LI that help bring awareness to the need for a robust public transportation network.”

Participants are asked to pledge to be car free or car-lite on September 20 at the Car Free Day LI website <https://www.carfreedayli.com/> Commuters, students and residents are also eligible to win raffle prizes including commuter bicycles, gift cards, transit passes, sports memorabilia and theatre tickets.



As in previous years, Northwell Health continues to be the leader in employee pledges. “I am honored to represent Northwell Health today, and happy to have pledged for Car Free Day LI along with many of my colleagues,” commented Dr. William Lowe, Director of Employee Health Services. “In every community we serve we are driven to improve the quality of life for everyone there. By taking alternative transportation modes rather than getting in our car alone reduces the carbon emissions in the environment. This can have a tremendous health impact by reducing asthma, other respiratory illness and cancer rates. In addition, by increasing our activity in using more active forms of transportation, that has a positive impact on diabetes and obesity,” commented Dr. Lowe.

Long Island Association President and CEO Kevin Law was unable to attend, but stated his support: “Promoting a strong environment while reducing carbon emissions is critical to Long Island’s ability to compete to maintain and attract new businesses. It is also important in attracting a highly skilled workforce. Car Free Day LI provides both LI businesses and commuters the opportunity to highlight environmental sustainability by re-evaluating our commute and getting out of our cars, utilizing mass transit, carpools and other options.”

“We’re excited to see support for Car Free Day LI increasing every year,” said Lisa Belinsky, Program Manager of Transit Solutions and co-chair for the event. “There’s more than 85 organizations participating this year, and municipalities are becoming more involved. Residents are realizing the impact of their driving on their health and environment and trying different travel options.”

Car Free Day LI is again pleased to partner with the U.S. Green Building Council Long Island Chapter (USGBC-LI) for Long Island Mobility Week—this year, September 14-20 -- culminating with Car Free Day. Rosemary Mascali, Long Island Mobility Week organizer stated, “ We have more than a dozen events scheduled this week covering a broad range of sustainable transportation options including electric vehicles, shared mobility, bike share, e-scooters, walkability, micro-transit, dynamic carpooling and rider information and fare apps.”

There are several activities set for Car Free Day LI on September 20th. In Wyandanch Village from 7:00-9:00 am at the LIRR train station, commuters can start their day with free coffee. Later that night they’ll host an outdoor family movie night from 7:30-9:30 pm. There will be snacks, giveaways and raffles, including bicycle helmets to encourage a safe, sustainable transportation option. In the Village of Sea Cliff, part of Sea Cliff Avenue will be shut down to car traffic to celebrate with student art being created, music, raffles, food and vendors. There will also be guided walking tours leaving 5:30 and 6:00 pm, on the newly refurbished trails by the water.

More information about Car Free Day LI and the events of Long Island Mobility Week is available at the Car Free Day LI website at <https://www.carfreedayli.com> and at <https://longislandmobilityweek.org/>

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