



The Voice of Long Island's Highway & Infrastructure Professionals

**Marc Herbst, Executive Director
Long Island Contractors' Association, Inc.**

**Nassau County Legislative Hearing regarding the development
of the Nassau County Hub properties.**

November 27, 2018, 2:00 PM

**The Peter J. Schmitt Memorial Legislative Chamber
Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building
1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501**

Presiding Officer Nicoletto and members of the Nassau County Legislature, my name is Marc Herbst and I serve as the Executive Director of the Long Island Contractors' Association. I appreciate the opportunity to share with you our organization's full support of the proposal before you to develop the property known as the Nassau Hub.

The Long Island Contractors' Association (LICA) represents the interests of Long Island's premier heavy construction general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and industry supporters. Our industry is focused primarily on building and maintaining our region's vital infrastructure: its highways, bridges and transit systems as well as utilities, water quality and wastewater systems, and other public works. We carry a sense of pride that many of LICA's 170-member firms are multi-generational, family-owned businesses that are located on Long Island, who continue to work and employ neighbors in our community. We anxiously look forward to building the Nassau Hub.

Situated on the part of the land of the former Mitchel Field Air Force Base, which was decommissioned in 1961, the Nassau Hub property has been subject to multiple proposals over the decades, all of which were rejected. We hope this time will be different.

The focal point of the property is the recently refurbished Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, where the roads surrounding it bear the names of pioneers who helped establish Long Island as “the cradle of aviation.” The heavy construction industry of Long Island hopes today’s leaders will summon the same courage of past pioneers and move forward with this important project, and others like it, to grow our region’s economic base.

Charles Lindbergh Boulevard, which runs along the northern boundary of the Coliseum, was named after the famous aviator who flew the *Spirit of St. Louis* on the first solo trans-Atlantic flight from nearby Roosevelt Field to Paris, France. On the western end, that road intersects with Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard, a tribute to the daredevil fighter pilot and youngest son of President Theodore Roosevelt, who was the only son of a U.S. President ever to die in battle.

The eastern perimeter of the property is bounded by James Doolittle Boulevard, named for the Medal of Honor Air Force General who led the first aerial attack on the Japanese mainland during World War II, and who later led the speed tests and development of navigation equipment at Mitchel Field. Opposite the south entrance of the Coliseum is Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, which commemorates the aviation and motorcycle pioneer whose engine manufacturing founded the U.S. aircraft industry. Finally, Earle Ovington Boulevard, which runs along the Nassau Hub’s western side, pays homage to the notable aviator who, among other accomplishments, flew the first official airmail delivery under the aegis of the United States Post Office Department, from Garden City to the Mineola Post office, on September 23, 1911. The six-mile flight took six minutes at an altitude of 500 feet. Reportedly, Ovington threw the mail sack over the cockpit, only to have the bag break when it hit the ground. But, true to the postal service mantra, all mail was recovered and eventually delivered!

Past proposals for the Nassau Hub may have been tossed over the side, but now is the time to recover those dreams and finally deliver on behalf of the Long Island community.

The member firms and our labor partners of the Long Island Contractors' Association stand ready to deliver. We are ready to build. We are ready to assist our public and private officials create a new destination for new businesses, new technologies, new entertainment attractions, new restaurants and new living accommodations for our young and professional people.

We encourage you to display the same courage and vision of the past pioneers whose name surround the Nassau Hub. This is the time to move forward. This is the time to support this project. Your decision will be part of the legacy. Who knows, perhaps someday you may find yourself traveling on a new roadway in the Nassau Hub named after you!

Thank you.