

KEEPING CURRENT

Long Island Infrastructures In the Eyes of an Alien



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I came here to Long Island two years ago with my family to expand my business and to experience another way of life. There is no need to elaborate about the advantages of America and why people want to come here. This is still America with its safety and freedoms.

I will concentrate on the infrastructure, on the problems that to my stranger's eyes have to be solved and improved, because otherwise I think that we will go backwards instead of forwards.

As I see the situation, America was a leading nation in the past and is still now. This status, however, caused people to think that it will remain like that forever, and to look at the rest of the world from an elevated vantage point.

So the rest of the world studies America and learns about all the good things, but America doesn't look on the rest of the world and study from it, to learn about the improvements that have been done in other places.

Therefore, this has led to the unbelievable condition of the roads on Long Island and all aspects of the quality of road travel.

The quality of the roads, such as narrow lanes which are more than one whole foot less wide compared to European standards, and even compare to other US states. The lack of traffic islands, the frighteningly short on-ramps to major highways (hundreds of feet less than what is allowed in Israel), and the lack of lights in the street are just some of the

problems Long Island drivers face every day

That has caused me to really be afraid to drive to the city, and prefer to go by train. It was a shock for me to realize that whenever I go to Israel, I feel I am resting when I am driving and at night when I drive to any area in the remote suburbs, I can see! Every place is illuminated with reasonable lighting even at night.

When we go to any small community on Long Island, there are no sidewalk and no streetlights, and therefore total darkness. I have heard a few absurd explanation, for why it should be dark, but no explanation holds water, when we are speaking about the risk of driving at night in the winter, without lights, without sidewalks, with snow outside, and an old man has to back his car out of his driveway into the dark narrow street. Because of the lack of sidewalks in particular, mothers cannot safely walk with their children in a stroller. The most extreme case that I saw in the last two years, was a mother who went Jogging with a cart and a baby on a road without a sidewalk, risking danger to herself and her child

Is it real? Is something so obvious as sidewalks and street lighting Impossible in 2017 in prestigious places on Long Island?

Ok, driving is dangerous, and what about simple public transportation for young and old people, parents with babies, and actually for anyone that doesn't have a car and wants to go anywhere? The complete lack of public transportation a frequent complaint of newcomers to Long Island.

About the busses, is it impossible to use the thousands of school busses on Long Island which are not occupied most of the day and most of the summer, for a few experimental rounds to enable people to go out from their homes without cars?

It is unacceptable that compared to much smaller countries,

the US has so little public transportation in its suburbs and small towns. In any place in Israel, a country which is small but approximately three times Long Island in length and the four times in area, people have the ability to go out from their home and take public transportation and go anyway they want with a bus. It may be only twice a day in places very distant from the cities, but they can.

Not speaking about places in other countries similar to port Jefferson, they can go easily by bus most of the day in a very reasonable time.

When we will have busses, then suddenly children and teenagers too young to drive will be free to go to their friends freely after school without the transportation of their poor and busy parents, or to go together to the local mall like their friends in Europe and in Israel.

Then we will see fewer vehicles on the roads, which mean safer roads. Everyone will benefit from public transportation.

In addition to the sorry state of the roads and transportation, there is another puzzle about the infrastructure of Long Island, namely the sorry state of the power grid. Why do we still have electrical wires above and not in the ground? in a place with so much snow and ice, such hard winters and so many trees? Every hurricane leaves many people without power for many days.

This is not something that can be understood by someone who all his life heard about the greatness of America.

In Israel, a country that has existed for just 70 years, all the electricity is underground, all the streets even in very small place and far away from the center have sidewalks and lights, yes even lights!

I hope that this mine point of view will help to change something....