

Re: Amtrak

The town of Stuyvesant working with Congressman Gibson's office has been in communication with Amtrak regarding complaints we received this summer about the creosote odor from the railroad ties stored near Riverview Street.

Amtrak assumed responsibility of the operation and the dispatching of the railroad in 2013 on a portion of the line between Schenectady and Poughkeepsie which had been previously operated by CSX. Since then Amtrak has partnered with the New York State Department of Transportation in upgrading the line to improve the efficiency and safety along this line including improved signaling, which consisted of burying of new upgraded signal cables and the removal of the old cable and poles that were in disrepair along the route, and additional 4th station track and extended platforms at the Rensselaer Station, and the installation of 2nd track between Rensselaer and Schenectady. Along with these improvements is a major tie replacement project between Rensselaer and Poughkeepsie in order to return this section of track to a state of good repair, which had been subject to deferred maintenance. This project, in its third year is part of a project that will install over 150,000 ties along the line.

As Supervisor and nearly a lifelong resident of the area, I am pleased to see the improvements to this important infrastructure in our area. The removal of overhead lines and poles has been a big visual improvement to the landing area. That being said we can all agree the creosote odor of the new ties was a bit annoying this summer.

I am pleased to be able to announce the Amtrak has agreed now that a significant northerly portion of the tie replacement project has been completed, they will be moving the new ties south to a storage location that has no homes nearby. We will still see some piles of used ties stored here, but should not create the odor problem we have had. This project should be completed in the next 30 days.

I have thanked Amtrak officials for their consideration of the residents in our town near the river.

If anyone has any questions regarding this project please feel free to contact me.

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