

**A. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter examines the effects of the Project on safety and security at the Project Site and immediate area.

**B. EXISTING CONDITIONS**

As identified in the *Wyandanch Downtown Revitalization Plan*, crime has been a significant issue in Wyandanch and one that the community has been struggling to overcome for decades. Wyandanch as a whole was found to have a high incidence of crime, especially drug-related, relative to both the Town of Babylon and Suffolk County overall.

The Project Site and immediate area where the new roadway network is proposed lack a sense of safety and security, because of the large open commuter parking lots with non-pedestrian scaled lighting, vacant buildings, and industrial uses, as well as crumbling curbs and inadequate drainage.

Some of the buildings on the Project Site and on adjacent properties have security systems and sprinkler systems in place. The Project Site and surrounding area are currently patrolled on a regular basis by the Suffolk County Police Department.

Pedestrian safety and vehicular safety are a concern in the vicinity of the Project Site. The accident analysis conducted as part of the *Wyandanch Intermodal Feasibility Study*, which is described in Chapter 6, "Transportation," of this EA, indicated that there are a significant number of accidents along Straight Path near the railroad crossing (e.g., at Long Island Avenue, Merritt Avenue, Acorn Street, etc.), many of which are caused by drivers traveling at unsafe speeds.

**C. THE PROJECT**

With the Project, the Suffolk County Police Department will continue to patrol the Project Site. Near the new parking garage, at the public plaza, and along the new roadway network, pedestrian-scaled lighting and walkways will make the area more welcoming to pedestrians. In addition, the Project will incorporate a number of measures to increase the sense of safety at the Project Site and in the immediate area.

**PARKING GARAGE**

The garage will incorporate a number of features to protect the safety and security of patrons using the garage. The property will continue to be patrolled by the Suffolk County Police Department. In addition, design features that are intended to enhance safety and security include the following:

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- Visibility of the garage decks from outside points of view;
- Unobstructed clear sightlines inside garage floors;
- Minimum amount of solid interior walls and openings provided in the structural walls;
- Easy-to-find, alternate egress pathways that allow users to avoid dangerous situations;
- Glazed areas in stairways and elevator shafts for outside monitoring and observation;
- Lighting levels and the siting of lamps to avoid shaded corners including providing minimum 5 foot-candle<sup>1</sup> average lighting levels throughout the parking area, 10 foot-candles along pedestrian pathways, and 50 foot-candles at the entry/exit location;
- Light paint colors on walls and ceilings to increase interior lighting levels;
- Safety mirrors that make visible any and all hidden locations;
- Roll-up gates to be closed during off-hours;
- Hardware for emergency exit doors with no entrance option;
- Access through controlled pathways only and man-proof grating at grade level;
- Continuous monitoring by closed-circuit television security system with terminal monitors in the attendant booth/office and capability to operate unmanned as necessary;
- Attendant booth and continuous attendance at entry/exit area;
- Intercommunication system tied to police or security guardian; and
- Panic buttons/Blue Light System.

### ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

One of the primary purposes of the various proposed roadway improvements is to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, including eliminating pedestrian-vehicular conflicts near the LIRR Wyandanch station. The realignment of Acorn Street, creation of a new public plaza, introduction of a drop-off and pick-up zone near the train station, and relocation of an existing bus stop will together make the area near the train station much safer for pedestrians. Traffic flow will be reduced in speed and pedestrians will be able to safely cross between the parking garage and the train station. In addition, heavy truck traffic will be routed away from the station area, which will also increase pedestrian safety.

The roadway improvements along Straight Path, which include some features that will result in traffic calming, which are also intended to increase pedestrian and vehicular safety. Proposed changes include the introduction of sidewalks and a median with reserved left-turn areas, and provision of crosswalks at each intersection. In addition, as noted above, an existing bus stop on Straight Path will be relocated northward to an area closer to the train station, adjacent to the new public plaza. The Town of Babylon has discussed this element of the Project with Suffolk County, which has indicated its support of this modification. \*

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<sup>1</sup> A foot-candle is unit of measure of the intensity of light falling on a surface, equal to one lumen per square foot.