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IMMEDIATE

MTA Chairman Thanks Congressional Conference Committee For East Side Access And Second Avenue Subway Funding

MTA Chairman Peter S. Kalikow today thanked the members of the Congressional Transportation Appropriations Conference Committee for the action they took last evening to earmark \$75 million for the East Side Access project and \$2 million for the Second Avenue Subway project.

"These are important steps toward bringing the Long Island Rail Road into Grand Central Terminal and relieving overcrowding on the Lexington Avenue Subway," he said. "Securing these monies from Congress in tough budget times, was only made possible by a team effort for which I must thank the Governor, our two Senators, our Congressional delegation, and the New York business community. Everyone put their shoulder to the wheel to educate Congress about the importance of these two projects to our regional mobility, and it worked. I also extend my sincere appreciation to the leadership of the Senate and House Transportation Subcommittees, Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Rep. Ernest Istook (R-OK) for demonstrating their confidence in our projects."

"The \$75 million for East Side Access fulfills the President's FY'04 recommendation to Congress for the project and is the single largest discretionary earmark the MTA has received in the past five years or six years, since the completion of the 63rd St. Connector. We look forward to securing the full funding grant agreement this spring," said Chairman Kalikow.

"The \$2 million for Second Avenue Subway helps us in our initial planning efforts which are already underway and we will be looking for substantial amounts for that project as it progresses over the next two years," he continued.

Additional information and details about both projects can be found on the MTA's website.