

20. Short-Term Uses of the Environment and Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

Short-term uses of the environment associated with implementation of the CBD Tolling Alternative would include temporary effects during construction, such as short-term traffic lane closures, visual effects, construction noise, and potential dust-related effects. As described in **Chapter 15, "Construction Effects,"** the overall duration of construction for the CBD Tolling Alternative is expected to be less than one year. At each location, the total construction duration would generally be approximately one to two weeks, although inclement weather or other unforeseen conditions could extend the duration of construction at individual locations. Concurrent construction at multiple sites would likely occur to allow efficient construction management. During that time, the TBTA will ensure that the Project contractors minimize construction-related disruptions, using, for example, maintenance and protection of traffic plans and dust suppression measures.

The long-term productivity, or benefits, associated with the Project would include reduced vehicular congestion in the Manhattan CBD through the implementation of a vehicular tolling program. Because the Project would reduce congestion in the Manhattan CBD, it would improve regional air quality. The vehicular tolling program would create a new local, recurring funding source for the MTA capital projects. Funding for transit would allow for more fleet, would improve the efficiency of the system, and would generally enhance transit use, thereby allowing MTA's transportation network to absorb increasing transit ridership and further reduce vehicle congestion.