

21. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The implementation of the CBD Tolling Alternative would result in the permanent commitment of natural, physical, and human resources that cannot be recovered after completing the Project.

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 construction and equipment installation, activities would require the irretrievable use of fuel for construction vehicles, equipment, and construction workers' personal vehicles. Electrical energy would be irretrievably used during construction and operation to power equipment and to transmit and process data. The physical infrastructure installed for the CBD Tolling Alternative would be made of raw materials such as iron ore, aggregate, and silicon. These resources are not retrievable, but they are not in short supply, and their use would not have an adverse effect on their continued availability.

Overall, the commitment of fuel and electricity for construction equipment, raw materials to construct Project infrastructure, and the public funds spent during construction would ensure long-term gains in regional mobility through establishing a vehicular tolling program that would reduce vehicle congestion in the Manhattan CBD, thereby improving overall traffic flow and 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 increased fleet size, 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.