

U.S. Department Of Transportation Federal Transit Administration Region II New York New Jersey One Bowling Green Room 429 New York, NY 10004-1415 212-668-2170 212-668-2136 (Fax)

July 10, 2015

Mr. Marc Albrecht Deputy Director, Grant Management Metropolitan Transportation Authority 2 Broadway New York, NY 10004

Dear Mr. Albrecht:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has reviewed the Environmental Re-Evaluation Consultation form (Consultation Form) for the MTA Long Island Railroad East Side Access Technical Memorandum No. 9 – Concrete Deliveries at 55<sup>th</sup> Street (Tech Memo No. 9) submitted by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) on June 8, 2015, regarding the MTA Long Island Railroad East Side Access Project (Project). As part of the Project, MTA proposes to use a portion of East 55<sup>th</sup> Street between Park and Madison Avenues as a concrete delivery access point.

Based on our review of the Consultation Form for Tech Memo No. 9, attached hereto, FTA concurs that the proposed design modifications, as described in Consultation Form, will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The completed Consultation Form for Tech Memo No. 9 satisfies the NEPA requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 771.130 and no supplemental environmental review is necessary for the proposed change.

Please be aware that if any further changes to the Project are proposed, FTA will need to determine if additional environmental studies will be necessary before the changes are approved. Should you have any questions concerning this Project, please contact Nancy Danzig, Director of Planning and Program Development at 212-668-2177.

Sincerely,

Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Environmental Re-Evaluation Consultation Form for the MTA Long Island Railroad East Side Access Technical Memorandum No. 9 – Concrete Deliveries at 55<sup>th</sup> Street

Cc: J. Wuotinen MTA/MTACC

# ENVIRONMENTAL RE-EVALUATION CONSULTATION

Note: The purpose of this worksheet is to assist sponsoring agencies in gathering and organizing materials for re-evaluations required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Submission of the worksheet by itself does not meet NEPA requirements. FTA must concur in writing with its determination and/or the sponsoring agency's NEPA recommendation. Contact the FTA Region 2 office at (212) 668-2170 if you have any questions regarding this worksheet. We strongly encourage you to contact us to discuss your project changes expiration of NEPA determination before you fill out this worksheet.

For Agency Use	
Date Received:	
Recommendation by Planner or Engineer:	Reviewed By:
Accept Return for Revisions Not Eligible	
Mill D	Date: June 8,2015
Comments:	
Concurrence by Director of Planning & Program Development	Reviewed By:
Accept Recommendation Return with Comments	
namy Dangy	Date: Tune 16,2015
Comments:	
Concurrence by Regional Counsel:	Reviewed By:
Accept Recommendation Return with Comments	100 m
Injurior Little	Date: Euro 26, 2015.
Comments:	
Concurrence by Approving Official for hang for Ser	Date: July 10, 2015
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<u>Please answer the following questions, fill out the impact chart and attach project area and site maps.</u>
Using a site map from the previously approved NEPA document, show any project changes using a different color. Include additional site maps to help reviewer understand project changes.

### PROJECT TITLE

MTA Long Island Rail Road East Side Access Technical Memorandum No. 9 - Concrete deliveries at 55th

LIST CURRENT, APPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. EIS/ROD, EA/FONSI, BA, RE-EVALUATION, etc.) If Re-evaluation, briefly describe.

- Title: MTA Long Island Rail Road East Side Access Final Environmental Impact Statement Type and Date of Last Federal Action - May 2001 Record Of Mar. 2001 Decision
- Title: "MTA LIRR East Side Access Project Technical Memorandum Assessing Potential Design Changes" (referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 1) Date: Feb. 2002 Type and Date of Last Federal Action - March 2002. FTA concurred with an assessment that showed no new adverse impacts would result from extending tail tracks south of Grand Central Terminal (GCT), a new 50th Street vent plant and a new truck dock, loop track modifications at Sunnyside, Queens, and a new entrance at the Roosevelt Hotel.
- Title: "MTA LIRR East Side Access Project Design Changes in Queens Revision 14-4M" Date: November 2005 (referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 2) Type and Date of Last Federal Action - April 2006. FTA concurred with assessment that showed no new significant adverse impacts would result from design revisions in Sunnyside Yard, Queens involving the Harold Interlocking and changes to meet new 2003 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for ventilation systems design.
- Title: "MTA/LIRR ESA 50th Street Facility Revised Supplemental Environmental Assessment to the East Side Access Final Environmental Impact Statement" Date: April 2006 Type and Date of Last Federal Action-Finding Of No Significant Impact July 27, 2006
- Title: "MTA LIRR East Side Access Technical Memorandum Assessing Design Refinement: Tail Tracks Ventilation Plenum and Grate" (referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 3) Date: Feb 2008 and transmitted April 16, 2008 Type and Date of Last Federal Action - July 2008, FTA concurred with assessment that showed no new significant adverse impacts would result from the 37th Street sidewalk grates and vent plenum.
- Title: "MTA LIRR East Side Access Technical Memorandum Assessing Design Changes: LIRR Concourse and Street Entrances" in addition to other documents (referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 4) Date: July 2009 Type and Date of Last Federal Action March 3, 2010. FTA concurred with an assessment that showed no new significant adverse impacts would result from GCT design changes and entrance configuration.

Title: "Redundant Elevator for East Side Access Concourse" (ref to as Technical Memorandum No. 3)
Date: March 2010  Type and Date of Last Federal Action – July 29, 2010 FTA concurred with an assessment that showed no new significant adverse impacts would result from construction of a redundant elevator for the East Side Access concourse.
Title: Environmental Re-Evaluation Consultation submitted for "MTA Long Island Railroad East Side Access Technical Memorandum No. 6 – 48th Street Entrance Design" (referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 6) Date: Sep 2011 Type and Date of Last Federal Action – November 23, 2011 FTA concurred with an assessment that concluded no new significant adverse impacts would
result from relocating the 280 Park Avenue entrance west to 415 Madison Avenue (an adjacent building).
Title: Environmental Re-Evaluation Consultation form submitted for "MTA Long Island Railroad East Side Access Technical Memorandum No. 7 – 37th Street Shaft – Construction Access" (referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 7)  Date: September 2013  Type and Date of Last Federal Action – November 4, 2013 FTA concurred with
an assessment that concluded no new significant adverse impacts would result from changes to construction access for the 37th Street Shaft.
Title: : Environmental Re-Evaluation Consultation form submitted for "MTA Long Island Railroad East Side Access Technical Memorandum No. 8 -Command Center Elevator" (referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 8)  Date: March 26, 2015  Type and Date of Last Federal Action - April 24, 2015
HAS THE MOST CURRENT AND OTHER PERTINENT APPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL
DOCUMENTS BEEN <u>RE-READ</u> TO COMPARE PROPOSED PROJECT CHANGES?
NO (STOP! The most current approved environmental document MUST be re-read prior to completing a re-evaluation.)
IS THE PROJECT CURRENTLY UNDER DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION?
IS THE PROJECT CURRENTLY UNDER DESIGN OR MICHORY

## REASON FOR RE-EVALUATION

IS THE PROJECT CURRENTLY UNDER

A new construction access plan was developed in order to reduce cost and construction risk, and mitigate critical path schedule delays. Unacceptable bids were received for a contract called "Manhattan Structures 2 and Fit-Out of Facilities," which was to be awarded in the first quarter of 2013. One of the issues raised during the bidding process for that contract was the limited access points for delivering concrete and construction materials to the site. As a result of the unacceptable bids, this contract has been divided into smaller work packages and re-bid, increasing the number of contractors that must utilize the already restricted number of tunnel access points and underground access routes. To maximize the efficiency of each concrete access point and minimize MTACC's risk, each concrete access point is contractually allotted to an individual Contractor for 8 hour increments. As such, the already limited access points are further restricted by the increased quantity of Contractors working adjacent to each other. Adding another concrete access point into the cavern will allow for more efficient concrete

deliveries for current and future contracts. The work in these contracts is on the critical path and affects all remaining Manhattan work including the "North Structures, Main Caverns, Systems Package 1 and Systems Package 2."

The current East Side Access contract for the construction of the 55<sup>th</sup> Street ventilation facility (CM013A) on 55th Street is nearing completion by mid-2015. Use of the 55<sup>th</sup> Street site for installation of a concrete drop (two 12" pipes at street level) and potential personnel access hatch would facilitate the work of multiple contractors by providing a key intermediate location along the Manhattan alignment for concrete deliveries to the tunnels both north and south of 55<sup>th</sup> Street. The personnel access hatch (if the future contracts need it) will also provide access to about 30 workers per shift for three shifts per day. In addition to reducing costs and schedule delays for the remaining Manhattan work, it would reduce the potential for construction hazards/risks and delay claims.

Upcoming contract CM007 (GCT Station Caverns and Track) requires a significant amount of concrete in the Caverns as well as the running tunnels. Due to the work of Adjacent Contractors at the time of CM007's Notice To Proceed (NTP) (expected around July 2015), CM007 will only have access to concrete through the 37th Street shaft, which is significantly far from the Caverns where CM007 concrete is most critical. The use of this 55th Street drop pipe location will allow MTACC to redistribute critical concrete access points between CM006 (Caverns/Manhattan North Structures) and CM007 to provide more viable alternatives to support CM007's critical path work.

# DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT CHANGES, NEW INFORMATION OR REASON FOR DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION

This Technical Memorandum (No. 9) proposes to extend the construction period at 55<sup>th</sup> Street, between Park and Madison Avenue, by about 48 additional months to permit deliveries of concrete to the tunnels to facilitate the remaining construction work in Manhattan and potentially allow access for construction personnel through a hatch. The FEIS anticipated the total time for construction of the 55<sup>th</sup> Street ventilation facility ("Facility") to be 30 months and subsequent schedules and information provided to the community reflect a 34 month schedule. The FEIS and subsequent NEPA documentation assumed materials, concrete and personnel would have access to the tunnels through shafts at 37<sup>th</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and the Queens Bellmouth, and potentially via rail from BN Yard in the Bronx. East 55<sup>th</sup> Street was not identified as a construction access point in those documents.

The proposed concrete drop pipes will consist of two 12" holes at street level where the following activities would occur:

Concrete Deliveries: The street level drop holes may periodically be used for concrete and shotcrete deliveries through drilled holes directly adjacent to the 55<sup>th</sup> Street ventilation facility. Depending on the size of the pour, between 10 and 30 concrete trucks per day (over a 24-hour time span) would supply concrete to the tunnels via a concrete pump located within the work zone. A maximum of four concrete trucks would be in the

55<sup>th</sup> Street vicinity at the same time. Two trucks would be staged within the work zone behind the privacy/dust screen (approximately 22' wide by 100' long) currently erected at the site while 2 other trucks remain in the vicinity. Concrete truck and pump washout will also occur in this area. Washout water will be collected in a storage container and removed as needed.

Potential Personnel Access: If future contracts (not bid yet) require it, approximately 30 workers per shift, three shifts per day, would use this access route into the tunnels. A guard would be stationed in small guard booth located underground in the 55<sup>th</sup> Street ventilation facility. An egress stairway will be constructed from the running tunnels up to the street level to an exit hatch on the north sidewalk in from on 65 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street. There are no plans for an enclosure at the street level for this personnel access point. The access hatch would be located completely in the work zone.

Currently, the contractor is completing the shaft lining and Facility fitout as well as utility work at the street level in preparation for repaving the street. Facility completion is anticipated by mid-2015. At that point, under the proposed plan, the site would be used for potential personnel access and delivery of concrete, for a period of about 48 additional months. It should be noted that extensive community outreach is ongoing, and a current schedule of 34 months has been presented to them as shown on Figure 2. Under this plan, the site will be used for approximately 82 months.

All work would adhere to NYCDOT permit requirements for allowable work hours, lane closures, and staging areas. The staging areas and lane closures that would be required, shown on Figure 1, are significantly reduced in size from those currently used (and permitted by NYCDOT) for the 55<sup>th</sup> Street Ventilation facility construction that is ongoing. All work would meet the commitments made in the FEIS, as well as those recently made to the community, to mitigate construction impacts, including:

- Maintaining at least one moving lane of traffic at all times,;
- Maintaining 6-foot pedestrian sidewalks on the north side of 55th Street; a full-width sidewalk shall be maintained on the south side of 55th Street;
- · Maintaining access to all business, residences, and loading docks;
- No staging in front of the Friars Club;
- Implementation of stringent noise and dust control measures and compliance with all contract environmental specifications.

Construction Effects of Proposed Plan

In considering the changes that would result between the current and proposed construction plans, the magnitude of construction impacts would be greatly reduced in scale, however the length of the construction period would increase as indicated below:

Total Construction Period: Under the current, approved plan, 55<sup>th</sup> Street was expected to be used for 34 months. With the proposed change to use 55<sup>th</sup> Street for tunnel access, there would be an *additional* 48 months of construction activity on 55<sup>th</sup> Street.

Construction Noise, Vibration and Dust: Under the current plan, the duration of construction noise, vibration and dust impacts was expected for 34 months. With the proposed change to use 55<sup>th</sup> Street for tunnel access, there would be an additional 48 months of construction noise, vibration and dust impacts.

Traffic and Parking Lane Closures: The FEIS anticipated that construction of the 55th Street ventilation facility would require approximately 8 months of lane closures and traffic disruption. Once utility relocation was complete and the deck installed, most of the work would have been completed from below. Additional lane closures would have been required at the end of the construction period, in order to install the sidewalk grates and restore the street and sidewalks. Under the proposed construction plan, two parking lanes would be closed for the entire 82 month period, albeit a significantly reduced portion for the final 48 month period. The sidewalks would be reduced to a width of 6-feet for about 30 months at which time the south sidewalk and a portion of the north sidewalk will be restored for the remaining 48 month period.

HAVE ANY NEW OR REVISED LAWS OR REGULATION	ONE DEEN ISSUED SINCE APPROVAL OF
THE LAST ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT THAT AF	FECTS THIS PROJECT? If yes, please explain.
⊠NO	
YES	
IS THE LIST OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED S MONTHS OLD?	SPECIES (NMFS AND USFWS) MORE THAN 6
Not Applicable - The project is on 55th Street between Park an New York City.	d Madison Avenue, a dense urban environment, in
WILL THE NEW INFORMATION HAVE THE POTENT	TIAL TO CAUSE A CHANGE IN THE
DETERMINATION OF IMPACTS FROM WHAT WAS	DESCRIBED IN THE ORIGINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FOR ANY OF THE A category, please indicate whether there will be a change	in impacts. For all categories with a change,
continue to the table at the end of this worksheet and pro	vide detailed descriptions of the impacts as
originally disclosed in prior environmental documents, d project with delay(s) in implementation, confirm the acc	uracy and validity of the underlying studies. The
change in impact may be beneficial or adverse.	•
Transportation	Yes No
Land Use and Economics	☐ Yes ⊠No
Acquisitions, Displacements, & Relocations	☐ Yes ⊠No
Neighborhoods & Populations (Social)	☐ Yes ⊠ No
Visual Resources & Aesthetics	☐ Yes ⊠ No
Air Quality	☐ Yes ⊠ No
Noise & Vibration	☐ Yes ⊠ No
Ecosystems (Vegetation/& Wildlife, incldg Ending'd S	Species) 🗌 Yes - 🗵 No
Water Resources	☐ Yes ⊠ No
Energy & Natural Resources	☐ Yes        No
Geology & Soils	☐ Yes ⊠No
Hazardous Materials	☐ Yes    No
Public Services	☐ Yes ⊠ No
Utilities	☐ Yes       No

1		
Historic, Cultural & Archaeological Resources	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Parklands & Recreation	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Construction	⊠ Yes □ No	
Secondary and Cumulative	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Environmental Justice	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Will the changed conditions or new information result i under the following federal regulations/orders?	n revised documentation or determination	on
Endangered Species Act	☐ Yes   No	
Magnuson-Stevens Act	Yes No	
Farmland Preservation Act	Yes No	
Section 404-Clean Water Act	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Floodplain Management Act	Yes No	
CERCLA (Hazardous Materials)	Yes No	
Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Uniform Relocation Act	☐ Yes ⊠ No	
Section 4(f)	Yes No	
Section 6(f) Lands	Yes No	
Wild & Scenic Rivers	Yes No	
Coastal Barriers	Yes No	
Coastal Zone	Yes No	
Sole Source Aquifer	Yes No	
National Scenic Byways	Yes No	
Environmental Justice	Yes No	
Other	Yes No	
Office		
If you checked yes to any of these, describe how the chaneeded to ensure compliance of the new project: NA	nges impact compliance and any actions	<b>!</b>
Will these changes or new information likely result in su	ubstantial public controversy?	
☐ Yes ⊠ No		
Comments: A description of the coordination that has occ construction began at 55th Street is provided in Attachmen was sent community wide (including the community board substantial public controversy will result from the proposed	t 1. Also included is an email notification on March 25, 2015. It is unlikely that	that
C	•	
Will these changes or new information require any new describe the measures in each category.	or different mitigation measures? If yes	5,
☐ Yes ⊠ No		

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The proposed construction access plan would not cause a change in the determination of impacts from what was described in the FEIS or subsequent NEPA documentation for any of the NEPA areas listed above. Further environmental analysis is not necessary.

#### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1- Current and Proposed Staging Area
Figure 2 – Schedule of Work at 55<sup>th</sup> Street: Current and Proposed
Attachment 1 – 55<sup>th</sup> Street Ventilation Facility Community Meetings
Since June 2013 and Community email sent March 25,
2015.

SUBMITTED BY:

By signing this, I certify that to the best of my knowledge this document is complete and accurate.

Name: Jennifer Wuotinen, P.E.

Date:

Title: Construction Manager, Environmental/Acting

Chief Environmental Officer, MTACC

6/8/15

Submit two paper copies of this form, attachments, and a transmittal letter recommending a NEPA finding to the address below. Submit an electronic version to your area FTA Community Planner. Contact FTA at the number below if you are unsure who this is or if you need the email address. Modifications are typically necessary. When the document is approved, FTA may request additional copies.

Federal Transit Administration, Region II 1 Bowling Green, Room 429 New York, NY 10004

phone: (212) 668-2170

fax: (212) 668-2136

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None

None

None

Parklands & Recreation

FTA, Region II

Change in Impacts

New Impacts or Updated

Analysis

Impacts and Any Mitigation as Initially Disclosed

Impact Category

None

Transportation

None

Land Use and

Economics

None

Acquisitions, Displacements, & Relocations

None

None

None

None

None

None

None

None

None

Neighborhoods & Populations (Social)

None

Visual Resources &

Aesthetics

None

None

None

None

None

None

Noise & Vibration

None

Ecosystems (Vegetation & Wildlife)

None

Water Resources

None

Energy & Natural

Resources

None

Air Quality

None

None

None

None

None

None

None None None

None

Hazardous Materials

Geology & Soils

None None

Public Services

Utilities

None

Historic, Cultural &

Archaeological Resources

None

None

None None

None None

None

None

None

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Page

Construction	FEIS: The FEIS anticipated construction impacts	None	Concrete deliveries would begin for a period of about
	lasting up to 2 1/2 years at aboveground		48 months, requiring a concrete pump and drop pipe to
	construction sites in Manhattan and resultant		be located within the current work zone at 55 <sup>th</sup> Street.
	traffic disruptions, increased truck traffic,		Depending on the size of the pour, between 10 and 30
	pedestrian inconveniences on sidewalks, and		concrete trucks per day (over a 24-hour period) would
	noise and dust nuisances to abutters. The new		supply concrete via a pump in the work zone. A 6 foot
	ventilation facility under 55th Street would be		pedestrian sidewalk on the north side of 55th Street and
	constructed principally by mining beneath the		a full-width sidewalk on the south side of 55th street,
	street. Cut-and-cover construction would be		with at least one moving lane of traffic would be
	needed for the sidewalk gratings and creation of		maintained at all times as per the current NYSDOT
	the ventilation shaft itself. A portion of the		
		,	points for adjacent properties would be maintained. No
	traffic would be temporarily closed for a period		staging in front of the Friars Club would be permitted
	of 8 months to permit excavation for the facility.		in accordance with project agreements. Privacy/dust
	In addition, during off-peak hours for up to a few		screens would be maintained on site fencing and
	hours of time, the entire street may be closed to		compliance with contract environmental specifications
	facilitate certain construction activities. (see for		enforced.
	example pages S-43 to S-45, and 17-8 to 17-10)		
,			Change in impact - Prolonged construction presence,
	To minimize any potential impacts of		and related construction impacts, on 55th Street from 30
	construction activities on traffic, Maintenance		months to 82 months.
	and Protection of Traffic Plans (MPTs) would be		Prolonged parking lane, moving lane and partial
	developed and implemented. At all times, at least	•	sidewalk closures from 8 months to 48 months. A new
	one moving travel lane would be maintained on		MPT plan and NYCDOT permit will be obtained. This
	each affected street. On streets where lane		change would not result in new significant
	closures would be necessary, on-street parking		environmental impacts.
	would be prohibited and parking regulations		
	would be changed to "No Standing Anytime" to		
	ensure continued vehicular flow. Access to		
	loading areas and driveways would be maintained		
	during construction. As most Midtown Manhattan		
	streets typically have one effective moving travel	•	•
	lane, with curbs typically occupied by delivery		•
	vehicles, taxis, and parked cars, this would not		•
	significantly change traffic conditions in	-	····
	Midtown. (p.17-39)		
	With the second		And the state of t
Contract the state of	None	None	None
Secondary and Cumulative	INDIE		
		7000	None
Environmental Justice	None	NOILS	TAOLEC
Other	None	None	None
Carca	The state of the s		