



Memorandum

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Subject: MTA LIRR East Side Access Project
Technical Memorandum No. 5

Date: July 26, 2010

From: James A. Goveia
Community Planner

Reply to
Attn. of:

To: Brigid Hynes-Cherin
Regional Administrator

Through: Nancy Danzig, AICP *ND*
Director of Planning and Program Development

Maisie Grace *MG*
Regional Counsel

Introduction

This Memo provides FTA's analysis of a proposed change to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Long Island Rail Road (MTA/LIRR) East Side Access (ESA) project (Project) since FTA's issuance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Project in March 2001 and the Record of Decision (ROD) in May 2001 and subsequent Project changes approved by the documentation referenced below. The documentation referenced herein was submitted to FTA pursuant to CFR 450.771.130(c), to determine if any significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed design change.

Specifically, the proposed change involves the construction of an elevator between the LIRR Concourse that will be built as part of the ESA Project and Grand Central Terminal's (GCT) 45th Street cross passage, where existing elevators connect to both the Upper and Lower levels of GCT.

FTA has previously approved changes in four (4) technical memoranda and an Environmental Assessment, as documented in the below referenced documents:

- February 2002 "MTA LIRR East Side Access Project Technical Memorandum Assessing Potential Design Changes" (herein referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 1).
- November 2005 "MTA LIRR East Side Access Project Design Changes in Queens Revision 14-4M, dated November 2005" (herein referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 2).
- April 2006 "MTA LIRR East Side Access 50th Street Facility Revised Supplemental Environmental Assessment" (herein referred to as Revised EA) for which FTA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on July 27, 2006.

- February 2008 "MTA LIRR East Side Access Technical Memorandum Assessing Design Refinement: Tail Tracks Ventilation Plenum and Grate" (herein referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 3).
- March 2010 "MTA LIRR East Side Access Technical Memorandum Assessing the reduction of the number of ESA street entrances near Grand Central Terminal and additional construction activities at the site of the ventilation duct shafts located at Park Avenue and 37th Street" (herein referred to as Technical Memorandum No. 4).

The MTA is seeking funding through FTA's New Freedom Program.

Project Elements

This project will provide a redundant elevator between the Grand Central Terminal (GCT) LIRR Concourse, which will be built as part of MTA's East Side Access project (ESA) and GCT's 45th Street cross passage, where existing elevators connect to both the Upper and Lower Levels of GCT. This elevator will supplement Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guideline (ADAAG) requirements for the new LIRR concourse, which is designed as an ADA-compliant facility.

This project will serve to improve accessibility for LIRR passengers arriving at GCT via East Side Access. It will also facilitate access for Metro-North and NYC Transit customers transferring to LIRR at GCT.

Work will be conducted by a third party contract and awarded as an additional work order to the East Side Access contract VM-014, Vertical Circulation Elements.

Supporting Documentation

The MTA submitted a New Freedom Funding Project Proposal, dated March 12, 2010. This proposal stated the purpose for and discusses the installation of the redundant elevator between the GCT LIRR Concourse and the GCT 45th street passage as part of the ESA project. Included with this submission were plans showing the location of and an accessibility plan for the proposed elevator. FTA reviewed these documents pursuant to 23 CFR 450.771.130(c)

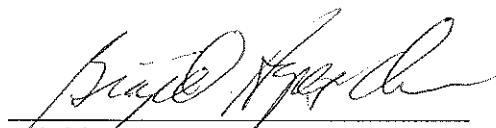
Public Outreach

As part of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council's (NYMTC) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Public Outreach process, the public was afforded the opportunity to comment on this project prior to its amendment into the NYMTC TIP. No comments were received

Recommendation

The proposed changes would not result in any significant environmental impacts not analyzed in the FEIS. In addition, there are no necessary changes to the mitigation measures described in the FEIS, ROD, and FONSI. This analysis meets the NEPA requirements pursuant to 23 CFR 771.130.

Concur:



 Brigid Hynes-Cherín
 Regional Administrator

Date:

