



July 21, 2008

To: All Interested Parties

**Re: Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Second Avenue Subway Project;
Environmental Review for Proposed Station Entrance Design Modifications
72nd Street and 86th Street Stations**

As you are aware, the MTA is constructing the Second Avenue Subway (SAS) Project to improve transit access on the East Side of Manhattan. This letter is to inform you that MTA, in coordination with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), will undertake an environmental review of proposed design modifications to certain station entrances at 72nd and 86th Streets, on the east side of Second Avenue, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The additional environmental review will focus on proposed entrance design changes at those locations, along with reasonable alternatives, to update entrance design concepts that were evaluated in the FTA/MTA Second Avenue Subway Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) dated April 2004 and FTA's Record of Decision (ROD) issued on July 8, 2004.

The proposed design modifications at these two locations will be presented at the Manhattan Community Board 8 Second Avenue Subway Task Force meeting on Tuesday, July 29, 2008. At this meeting, we will solicit public input on the proposed design modifications and related environmental analyses. As a separate agenda item, we also will review, in response to the public's request, the proposed track alignment design change (3-track to 2-track) that was discussed at last month's Community Boards SAS Task Force meeting.

Following the Community Board 8 meeting, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared for review and approval by the FTA, as lead federal agency, to evaluate the potential for any significant environmental impacts of the proposed design modifications that were not previously identified in the FEIS. The EA will address a full range of environmental issues, such as:

- Transportation—Subway Operations
- Transportation—Surface Transit
- Transportation—Vehicular Traffic
- Transportation—Parking
- Transportation—Pedestrians
- Land Use
- Neighborhood Character
- Visual and Aesthetic Considerations
- Displacement and Relocation
- Historic and Archaeological Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise and Vibration

There will be an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the EA during the course of the environmental review. MTA will provide the details of that review process at a later date.

In the meantime, we welcome your participation at the upcoming Community Board 8 meeting. ***Please call the Community Board 8 office at (212) 758-4340 to confirm the date, time and location of the meeting.***

If you have any questions concerning the environmental review or the Second Avenue Subway project, please contact Alissa Kosowsky, Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations, at (646) 252-2656.