

Comment of the Draft Scoping Document for the DEIS to the Proposed Emergency Ventilation Plant

My name is Fred Arcaro, member of the Board of Trustees of The Murray Hill Neighbored Association. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping for your DEIS to the Proposed Emergency Ventilation Plant.

We recognize the compelling need to provide emergency ventilation to the tunnel segment on the Lexington Avenue Subway Line under Park Avenue between 33rd and 42nd Streets in compliance with the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) 130 Standard for emergency ventilation. But more importantly, we recognize the intent of the project is to save lives in the event of smoke conditions in the subway tunnel.

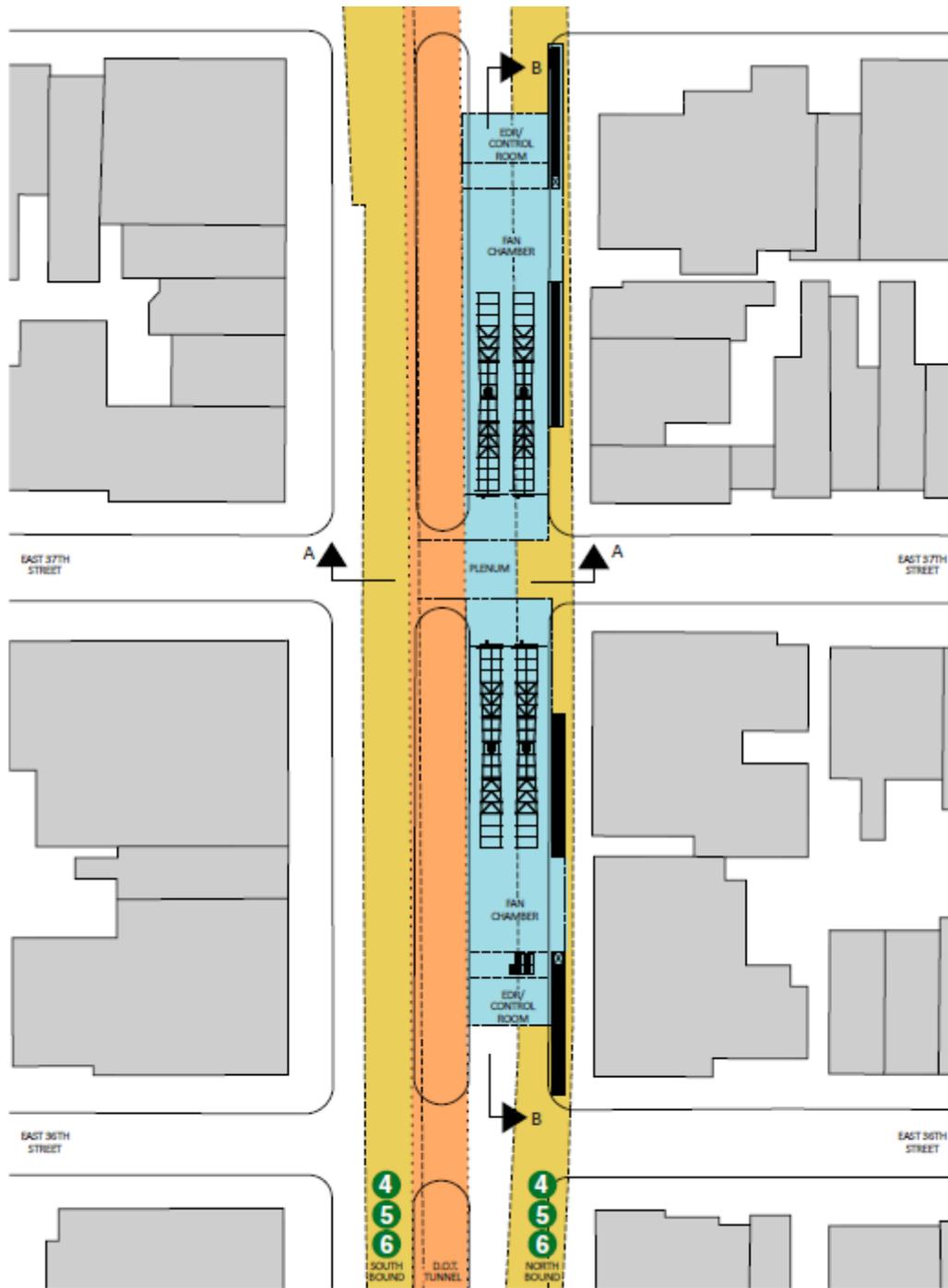
After reviewing all thirteen Potential Alternatives for the proposed ventilation plant, we considered Alternatives 10, 11 and 12 will have the least impact on our neighborhood. However, we have eliminated Alternative 10 because construction time for the project would last three years, much too long. In addition, Alternative 10 would have only one of about 136 feet long of exhaust grading on the east side of Park Avenue between 37th and 38th Streets. Alternative 11 is eliminated because it would take too much of a

construction area foot print. Therefore, we focused on Proposed Alternative 12.

- **On page 12 of the scoping, table B-1, you indicated, for Alternative 12, the width of the fan plant to be 32 feet and the construction zone to be 37 feet.**

Alternatives 9 - 13								
Alt.	Location	Fan Plant Width/ Construction Zone Width	Building Line to Park Avenue Mall Distance (Feet)*	Permanent Building Line Intrusion Likely?	Temporary Building Line Intrusion Likely?	Property Line to Park Avenue Mall Distance (Feet)†	Permanent Property Easement Likely?	Temporary Property Easement Likely?
9	Park Ave., East 39th to East 40th	55/60	60	No	No	56	No	No
10	Park Ave., East 37th to East 38th	40/45	60	No	No	57	No	No
11	Park Ave., East 37th to East 39th	44/49	60	No	No	58	No	No
12	Park Ave., East 36th to East 38th	32/37	60	No	No	58	No	No
13	Park Ave., East 36th to East 37th	55/60	60	Yes	Yes	58	Yes	Yes

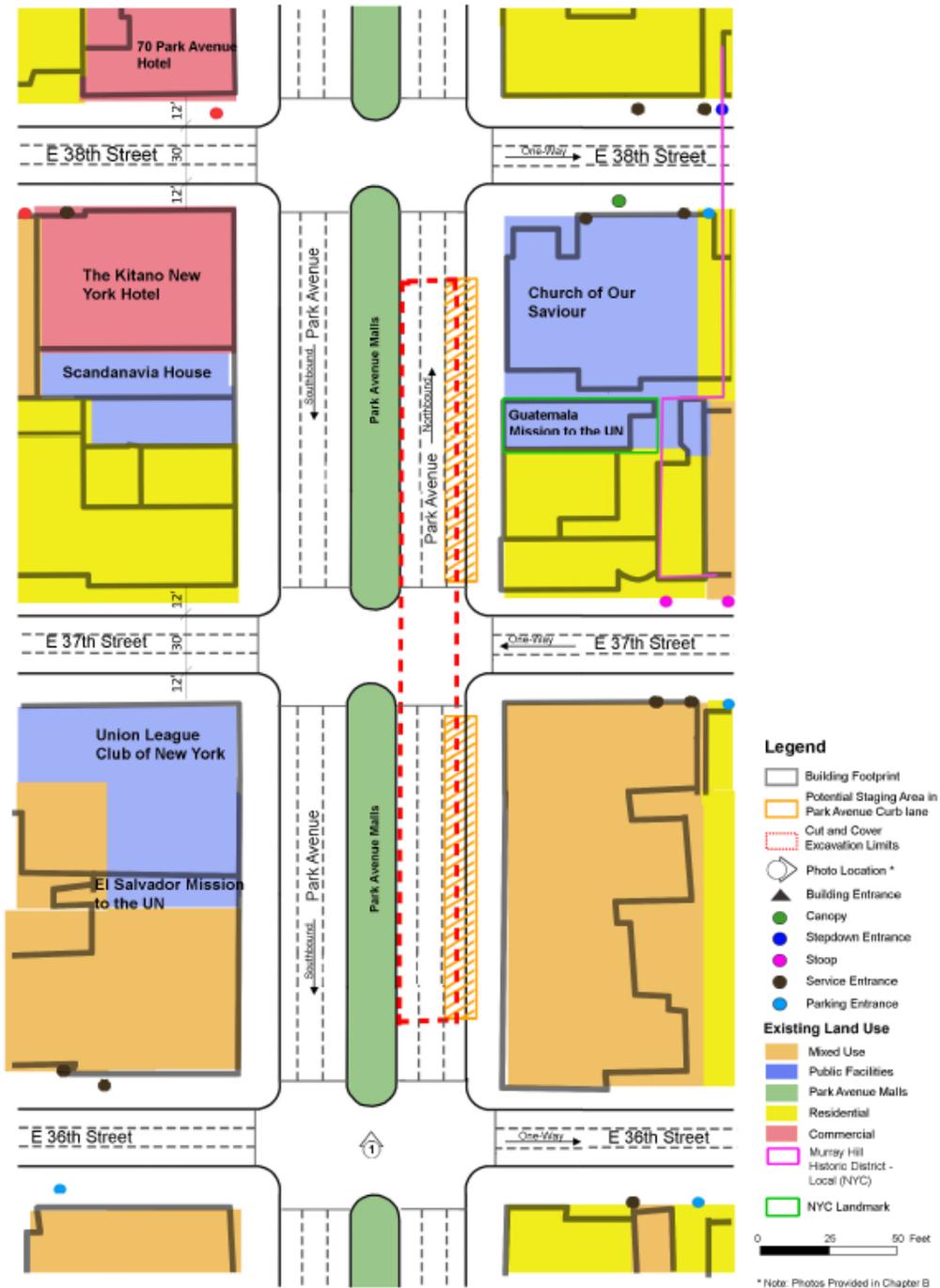
If this is true, the width of the construction zone would be less than indicated on page 71, Figure B-48. If one looks at Figure D-23, on page 150, the work zone would take only one lane of traffic.



Alternative 12 - Plan
 Park Avenue Between East 36th Street and East 38th Street



Figure B-48



Alternative 12 Overview Map

Figure D-23

By having two lanes of traffic instead of one, it would greatly reduce the adverse impact to traffic congestion in our neighborhood.

- **The scoping document should include the following:**
 - 1. A study of the use of pre-cast concrete sections for ventilation plenum to reduce construction time.**
 - 2. Traffic studies that will help design the best mitigation of traffic congestion caused by the construction project.**
 - 3. The scoping document should indicate what mitigation measures that would be taken to reduce traffic congestion.**
 - 4. The scope of work should include a study of the cumulative effect of the many construction projects near the proposed Alternative 12 construction site.**
 - 5. The document should indicate what coordination procedures to be taken to accommodate emergency vehicles at the construction site. In addition, to include procedures for operation of ladder fire trucks to reach buildings, in the event of a fire near the construction site.**
 - 6. A study should be conducted of what potential health risks there are to neighborhood residents located near the ventilation plant when it is exhausting smoke or toxic fumes.**

- 7. MTA should consider installing an alarm sounding system, to alert local residents, that would sound before the ventilation plant starts to exhaust smoke of other fumes.**
- 8. The study should include precautionary measures to keep local residents safe, when the ventilation plant is active.**