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June 23, 2016

Veronique Hakim
President
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear President Hakim:

We are writing in regards to the Emergency Park Avenue Ventilation Project for the Lexington Avenue Line. We know the MTA presented the proposed project to the Manhattan Community Board 6 Transportation Committee, and subsequently held a Public Scoping Meeting which outlined the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Based on the information you have provided to the community, it is clear that in the event of a fire or other emergency the current ventilation system in the Park Avenue Tunnel between 42nd Street-Grand Central and 33rd Street is inadequate in these situations where fresh air must quickly be circulated into the tunnel.

The safety of all riders is the sacrosanct mission of the MTA, and we are sensitive to the fact that your agency has given the project a priority ranking of 5 out of 252 with 1 being most critical. We greatly appreciate that the MTA has involved the community in scoping discussions for the upcoming DEIS, and provided a list of thirteen alternatives for the placement of the proposed ventilation facility.

However, given the invasive and lengthy nature of the construction which will occur in the Murray Hill Historic District, we do not believe the community has received adequate time to comment on the project. Your original presentation of the project to Community Board 6 occurred on June 6, with the public comment period set to close on July 1. Less than one month is simply too short a time frame for residents to understand the project, and submit relevant comments and questions. We ask that you consider extending the deadline 90 days, closing on September 1.

I look forward to hearing from you promptly.

Sincerely,
Liz Krueger

Handwritten signature of Liz Krueger in black ink.

State Senator

Handwritten signature of Daniel R. Garodnick in black ink.

Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member