



New York City Transit

August 1, 2016

Honorable Liz Krueger
New York State Senate, 28th District
211 East 43rd Street
Suite 401
New York, NY 10017

Honorable Daniel R. Garodnick
New York City Council
211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1205
New York, NY 10017

Re: Emergency Ventilation Project for the Lexington Avenue Line – Request for Extension of Public Comment Period

Dear Senator Krueger & Councilman Garodnick:

This is in response to your June 24, 2016 letter requesting that NYC Transit consider extending the public comment period for the Emergency Ventilation Plant Scoping Document (Lexington Avenue Subway Line) from the current 45 days by an additional 90 days, closing on September 1.

I would like to thank you for your letter and input on New York City Transit's (NYCT) Proposed Project to construct an Emergency Ventilation Plant on the Lexington Avenue Subway Line between the 33rd Street Station and the 42nd Street Station.

It is important to emphasize that this project is being reviewed pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and that NYCT knew public interest in this project would be significant. Consequently, we declared the project to be a Type I Action under SEQRA, which means that we will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the project. Because we encourage public participation and transparency, we have gone the extra step of engaging in the "scoping process", which is optional, prior to the issuance of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

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During the scoping process we met with the public and presented our preliminary ideas for the siting of the proposed Emergency Ventilation Plant. During our meeting with Manhattan Community Board 6 on June 6, 2016 and again at the Public Scoping Meeting on June 16, 2016 we presented our current understanding of the project's scope and the attendant engineering, economic and environmental issues that each potential emergency ventilation plant alternative poses, any significant adverse impacts which may present themselves for each alternate, as well as potential mitigation measures and reasonable alternatives.

The input you have given regarding this proposed project is very much appreciated, and will be included in the record of the project along with NYCT responses to questions and concerns regarding the proposed Emergency Ventilation Plant. Comments, questions and concerns raised during the scoping process will be addressed in the Final Scoping Document for the project.

Although we have decided not to extend the public comment period for the scoping process, which was open between May 18 and July 1, the public will have an additional opportunity to comment on this project during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) phase of the SEQRA process. MTA NYCT will be releasing the DEIS sometime in the fall of 2016. The DEIS comment period will be opened for at least 30 days, at which time the public will be welcome to provide additional written comments on this proposed Emergency Ventilation Plant. You may augment your existing comments, or provide additional comments on any aspect of the project at that time.

Additionally, NYCT will be holding a public hearing following the issuance of the DEIS this fall and we welcome public participation in the process at that time as well. Please note that the public comment period for the DEIS referenced above, which will open upon the public release of the DEIS, will not only remain open for at least 30 days, but the timing of this comment period will include at least 10 days following the public hearing in order to accommodate anyone who wishes to comment at that time.

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Thank you for your interest in this important project to promote public safety, and we look forward to working with you.

If you have additional questions regarding this or other transit-related issues, please have a member of your staff contact Marcus Book, Assistant Director for Government and Community Relations. Mr. Book can be reached at 646-252-2675.

Sincerely,



Veronique Hakim
President

cc: Lois H. Tandler
John O'Grady
Wynton Habersham
Debra Pollack
Justin Bernbach
Cheryl Kennedy