

20.1 INTRODUCTION

Projects seeking federal funding or approval are subject to federal project development procedures and public review requirements. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires public review of Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) and Environmental Assessments (EAs). Federal projects are also subject to public involvement and review requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with respect to historic resources, Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act with respect to parklands and historic resources, and Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.” Since no “use” of any Section 4(f) resources have been identified with the Modified Design, no Section 4(f) evaluation is warranted, as discussed in Chapter 17, “Section 4(f) Evaluation.”

The public outreach conducted over the history of the Second Avenue Subway Project, as well as public outreach related to this Supplemental EA, are summarized in the following sections of this chapter.

20.2 PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR THE EIS AND PHASE 1

The Second Avenue Subway Project has been the subject of extensive public outreach since its initiation in the 1990s. Environmental review began in 1995, when the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and MTA and FTA conducted a scoping process. A combined Major Investment Study (a type of study that is now referred to as an alternatives analysis) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was issued in August 1999 for a new subway, which initially was proposed to extend from 63rd Street to 125th Street, with a connection to the existing system at 63rd Street and Lexington Avenue. Based on input from the public, the Project was extended to Lower Manhattan and a Supplemental DEIS was prepared and published in April 2003 for public review. Public comments were addressed in the FEIS that was issued in May 2004. MTA has maintained a Project website where Project information and documents can be found (http://web.mta.info/capital/phase2_docs.html).

During construction of Phase 1 of the Second Avenue Subway, public coordination and outreach continued with a Community Information Center (CIC) located at 1628 Second Avenue, between East 84th and 85th Streets, and through ongoing communications, including public workshops, ask-the-expert sessions, exhibits, talks and virtual tours. A “Good Neighbor” initiative and regular Construction Advisory Committee meetings gave community stakeholders in-person access to project staff to obtain information and address any issues related to the Project. Modifications to construction means and methods were implemented in some cases based on community concerns, such as implementing temporary enclosures (“muck houses”) at station openings to reduce noise, dust, and emissions related to excavation of the tunnel for neighboring buildings.

20.3 PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR PHASE 2

Following the recent opening of Phase 1 of the Second Avenue Subway, the preliminary engineering for Phase 2 has advanced, as detailed in Chapter 2, “Description of Phase 2 Modified Design.” In conjunction with the advancement of design, MTA has developed a public outreach plan that was initiated in 2017, that will continue during the planning and NEPA phase of the Project, and that will continue throughout construction of Phase 2, similar to Phase 1. Public outreach initiatives for Phase 2 are outlined in the following sections.

20.3.1 GENERAL OUTREACH PLAN

As engineering, design, environmental review, property acquisition, utility relocation, and construction activities in the area that will be served by Phase 2 of the Second Avenue Subway begin, representatives of the Second Avenue Subway Project will proactively coordinate with the community. Through a robust community relations program, MTA will provide the public with Project status, alerts and information, and solicit and incorporate feedback when possible to minimize impacts to the affected neighborhoods.

Even though major construction is months away, MTA has already started its community outreach program for Phase 2. Presentations were given to Manhattan Community Boards 10 and 11 in June 2017 and April 2018; mailings have been distributed to provide contact information for reaching the community outreach team; numerous meetings have been held with community and business groups and elected officials (see **Appendix E**); and a Community Information Center (CIC) for Phase 2, which opened in September of 2017, at 69 East 125th Street, has welcomed over 4,000 visitors as of publication of this Supplemental EA.

The Community Board presentation in June 2017 provided a brief overview of Phase 2 at the early initiation stage of design, and included information on field activities that were planned in advance of Phase 2 construction, including geotechnical and environmental investigations. Businesses and residences near the locations of planned field investigations were also informed of the upcoming activities. The presentations in April 2018 provided a more detailed description of design elements and design modifications. The April 2018 meetings were held on April 18 at the Henry J. Carter Home & Hospital at 1752 Park Avenue (at 122nd Street) (Community Board 11) and on April 30 at Touro College at 231 West 124th Street (Community Board 10). Members of the community were given an opportunity to provide comments on the presentation. Comments at these meetings included concerns related to noise, air quality, and transportation impacts during construction; impacts to business visibility and access during construction; appearance of entrances and ancillary facilities and their affect on the continuity of businesses along the street; employment opportunities for local residents during construction; vermin during construction; property acquisition and displacement of residents; flood protection measures; level of public outreach during the planning and construction of Phase 2; and Project funding. Issues relating to potential social, economic, and environmental impacts are discussed in the technical chapters of this Supplemental EA and the public outreach program is discussed in this chapter. With respect to funding for Phase 2, the MTA continues to develop potential Project costs for Phase 2 and is seeking to use a combination of MTA capital funds and federal funds.

As Phase 2 moves forward and information from the preliminary engineering and design review process is synthesized, representatives of the Project team will:

- Prepare presentations on the findings to solicit public input on any identified design changes, and the potential community impacts.
- Initiate the formation of “Community Advisory Committees” and a “Retail Advisory Committee”, which will consist of members who represent a larger audience of people, and who can help bring information about the project to their constituents.
- Continue to meet with and update established groups, elected officials, and nearby neighbors with an interest in the Project.

Specific components of the outreach plan are discussed below.

20.3.1.1 COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTER (CIC)

The CIC was opened in September 2017 at 69 East 125th Street in Manhattan with visuals and interactive materials to provide information on Phase 2. The CIC will remain open until completion of Phase 2 as a community resource, to keep the public informed about Phase 2 and to provide a place for the community to communicate comments or concerns. The center has welcomed over 4,000 visitors since it opened for operation. In addition, outreach efforts have established connections to area schools with hundreds of schoolchildren having participated in presentations at the CIC. The CIC is staffed with people who can answer questions and provide information about the Project. Staff at the CIC speak both Spanish and English, so that they can communicate with community members who prefer to speak Spanish. The CIC will also be used to host workshops and other public events to engage the community.

At this time, the CIC is anticipated to have the following functions throughout the planning and construction periods of Phase 2:

- Develop and manage production of content/programming: displays, exhibits, interactive exhibits, etc. The first exhibit, *Second Avenue Subway: East Harlem*, launched with the facility’s opening. Community outreach staff has begun developing concepts for future exhibits with one planned at this time approximately every six to nine months.
- Hold educational events for school and other youth groups.
- Host community meetings.
- Stage future tours of the project underground at the appropriate time.
- Conduct “TransitTalk” evening events about the Project.

20.3.1.2 STATION-AREA LIAISONS

A community outreach director and a community liaison have been assigned full-time on the Phase 2 corridor (in the CIC initially) to document community concerns and follow-up with MTA or other agencies as directed by MTA to resolve community concerns and communicate resolutions back to appropriate community members. As work begins in the corridor (beginning with utility relocation), up to two additional liaisons will be added as needed, one for each station area. The current staff of a community outreach director, outreach liaison, two part-time staffers, and CIC manager are all fluent in Spanish, to allow clear communication with community members who prefer to speak Spanish.

Through email, flyers, and newsletters, MTA will keep the station-area community apprised of the Phase 2 construction schedule, as well as foreseeable associated disruptions, such as street closings, water utility disruptions, bus stop relocations, etc. As heavy construction gets under way,

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the frequency of newsletters will be increased to monthly and the number of email notifications will increase as well.

Also, with the start of heavy construction, the frequency of public meetings will increase to quarterly or more, if necessary. Meetings with local community leaders and targeted groups, such as buildings affected by specific/localized construction activities, will be held on an as-needed basis. Meetings may include the following:

- Community Advisory Committee meetings for each station area.
- Meetings with specific groups such as condo/co-op boards, business groups, etc.

20.3.1.3 *QUARTERLY PUBLIC WORKSHOPS AND ASK THE EXPERTS SESSIONS*

Biannual public workshops will be held as community outreach events. These events will pair members of the public with Project representatives to identify issues and problems and brainstorm potential solutions. These sessions will begin with a Project update, followed by small group discussions broken out by station area.

Alternating with the public workshops will be biannual *Ask the Experts* sessions, which will bring together, in a casual setting, members of the community with a number of Project and New York City agency personnel. *Ask the Experts* gives the public direct access to the specific agency that can address their Second Avenue Subway-specific issues. For example, if trash pickup has been problematic, a representative from the Department of Sanitation can field the inquiry and take appropriate action.

20.3.1.4 *GOOD NEIGHBOR INITIATIVE*

As part of a “Good Neighbor Initiative,” MTA will conduct inspections of work sites and surrounding areas and work with construction managers and contractors to address deficiencies. Items to inspect include general cleanliness of worksites, fences and fence wrap condition, sidewalk and street conditions, presence of graffiti, wayfinding signage up-to-date, garbage alcoves maintenance, lighting, crosswalk striping and lines of sight, walk/don’t walk and traffic light placement, building/store access, rodent activity, vehicles parked in work zones, and barricades, among others.

On a quarterly basis, Project representatives will review the occupancy of stores in the construction corridor, including on First, Second, and Third Avenues and East 125th Street along the length of the construction corridor and adjacent side streets. MTA will use this information to identify any unusual increase in vacancy rates vs. parallel streets, which could indicate an issue that needs to be addressed. MTA will share a report on the occupancy status with the East Harlem and Manhattan Chambers of Commerce.

MTA will create and update signage, construction maps, or other print materials as needed, including notifications of bus stop relocations, no parking zones, etc.

20.3.1.5 *GOVERNMENT RELATIONS*

Upon commencement of heavy construction, MTA will work with the City of New York to re-establish the Second Avenue Subway Interagency Taskforce. During construction of Phase 1, the taskforce met quarterly to review upcoming work and take the appropriate actions in their jurisdiction. For instance, when work zones were being established, the New York City

Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) provided permits and helped to ensure the area was safe for vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

MTA executives and public affairs staff will make periodic visits to elected officials representing the Phase 2 corridor and update them on the Project's progress so they can help keep their constituents informed.

20.3.2 OUTREACH FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In accordance with NEPA, this Supplemental EA was made available for at least 30 days for public review from July 12, 2018 to August 13, 2018. The Supplemental EA is available for review on the MTA's Project website (http://web.mta.info/capital/phase2_docs.html) as well as the following viewing locations:

**Second Avenue Subway
Community Information Center**
69 East 125th Street
New York, NY 10035

**Federal Transit Administration,
Region II**
One Bowling Green, Room 429
New York, NY 10004

**Manhattan Community Board 10
Office**
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10027

**Manhattan Community Board 11
Office**
1664 Park Avenue, Ground Floor
New York, NY 10035

A public meeting has been scheduled to provide an opportunity for the community to learn more about Phase 2 of the Second Avenue Subway and to provide verbal comments on the Supplemental EA. The public meeting is scheduled as follows:

**July 31, 2018
6:00–9:00 PM
Henry J. Carter Home & Hospital–Auditorium**
1752 Park Avenue (at 122nd Street)
New York, NY 10035

Written comments on the Supplemental EA may also be submitted electronically or by mail during the public review period through August 13, 2018 to one of the following addresses:

outreach@mtacc.info

Hector Santana
**Second Avenue Subway
Community Information Center**
69 East 125th Street
New York, NY 10035

Donald Burns
**Federal Transit Administration,
Region II**
One Bowling Green, Room 429
New York, NY 10004

After considering public comments, FTA's findings under NEPA will be issued and made available to the public. Based on the analyses presented in the Supplemental EA and after considering public comments, FTA will determine whether design modifications to Phase 2 of the Second Avenue Subway would result in any significant adverse environmental impacts not already identified in the 2004 FEIS or ROD or require changes to mitigation measures. FTA will issue a Finding of No Significant Adverse Impact (FONSI) if there are no significant environmental impacts not already identified in the 2004 FEIS or ROD or changes in mitigation measures. If

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there are any new significant adverse impacts or any significant changes to mitigation measures as a result of the proposed modifications, FTA and MTA will prepare a Supplemental EIS to evaluate those impacts.

20.3.3 SECTION 106 COORDINATION

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA; 36 CFR § 800) requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties that are listed in or meet the eligibility criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The NHPA also requires that federal agencies afford the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment on federal actions and that federal agencies undertake planning and actions to minimize harm to properties designated as National Historic Landmarks. NHPA also requires the opportunity for public comment on a project's effects on historic resources.

For the Second Avenue Subway, the Section 106 process was conducted in conjunction with the Project's review in accordance with NEPA. As part of that process, a Programmatic Agreement (PA) was executed among FTA, MTA, and SHPO on April 8, 2004 to describe the procedures that would be followed to document and protect historic resources that could be adversely affected by the construction of the subway. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) is a consulting party to the PA (indicating that LPC participated in consultation related to the PA). The PA has been amended once, in 2012, with respect to vibration thresholds.

In accordance with the PA, FTA and MTA continued to coordinate with SHPO as design and construction of Phase 1 advanced, as needed, and is continuing to coordinate with SHPO as design of Phase 2 advances. Please see Chapter 8, "Historic and Archaeological Resources," for additional information on Section 106 coordination related to Phase 2.

20.3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OUTREACH

The environmental justice process requires federal agencies to evaluate and avoid, minimize, and mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental impacts to communities with substantial minority or low-income populations (i.e., environmental justice communities) resulting from federal actions. It also requires federal agencies to make concerted efforts to engage environmental justice communities and provide opportunities for their participation in the environmental review process.

The East Harlem area where Phase 2 will be located is an environmental justice community. In most cases, areas are identified as both minority and low-income populations. As described above in Section 20.3.1 of this chapter, MTA has conducted a number of community meetings in this area with local residents and community leaders to engage the community and has established an ongoing outreach plan to be conducted throughout development and implementation of Phase 2. Community meetings will continue throughout construction of Phase 2, and as noted above, a CIC has been established at 69 East 125th Street in Harlem for ongoing communication with the community.

For a full discussion of environmental justice considerations for Phase 2, see Chapter 16, "Environmental Justice" of this Supplemental EA.

20.4 CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information regarding this document, please contact:

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