Built Properties, which may consist of individual structures, sites, as well as historic districts, can be affected by visual impacts as well as physical impacts. The Second Avenue Subway project Design Specifications for Visible Project Elements will be developed to ensure the following:

1) project elements which physically affect Built Properties (e.g., interior modifications to MTA’s Metro-North 125th Street-Harlem Station and Comfort Station and other potential exterior and interior modifications to Historic Properties such as to construct subway entrances) are designed in a manner to minimize damage, removal, and loss of view of significant architectural features and to complement the existing historic built fabric; and

2) above-ground visible project elements are designed in a manner consistent with the Built Properties near them. This will include an assessment of the viewshed to and from Built Properties and new project elements to determine any potential contextual issues associated with new construction and enable Project planners to prepare design specifications accordingly. Above-ground facilities for the project will consist of the following seven types of structures, which may have the potential to affect the visual context or historic setting of a Built Property:

- Entrances to subway stations (including elevators, stairs, and escalators)
- Emergency egress to subway stations
- Ventilating structures for stations and/or tunnels
- Cooling Towers
- Other ancillary structures to be constructed above ground

The development of the project’s design specifications will occur during the preliminary and final engineering phases, once the locations of project facilities are defined and their relationship with nearby Built Properties assessed. The design specifications will address not only how such facilities would be designed, but also the process by which their design is to be coordinated with the signatories to the Programmatic Agreement. MTA’s transportation facilities are exempt from local laws and ordinances pursuant to the New York State Public Authorities Law Section 1266, Subdivision 8. MTA nevertheless intends to continue to seek LPC’s advice and counsel as it moves forward in the manner it has in the past for proposed work on LPC individually designated landmarks or in historic districts.

The specifications will be prepared pursuant to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. They are expected to consist of the following guidelines for design as specified in the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, Standards for Rehabilitation, which pertain to the modification of Built Properties and new construction:
• New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the historic property or district. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

• New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Based on these standards, new construction will be planned to reflect the design trend and concepts of contemporary architectures so as to distinguish historic building fabric from new. New construction will also be designed to reflect the architectural characteristics, visual context, and historic setting of the Built Property including site implantation, a Built Property’s orientation on its site, including setback from the street; building envelope, a Built Property’s size and scale, including massing and defining characteristics such as roof shape, façade rhythm and building proportions; architectural details, elements of a Built Property’s façade, roof, and interior treatment including ornament; and materials, a Built Property’s structural system, exterior and roof cladding, and interior elements, including texture and color of materials. Should any damage occur to a Built Property(s) during Project construction, it will be repaired as described in Exhibit E, “Construction Protection Plans,” of this Programmatic Agreement.