CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
CITY OF NEW YORK

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION

September 2, 2008

PUBLIC NOTICE OF A SCOPING MEETING
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED WESTERN RAIL YARD PROJECT
(CEQR No. 09DCP007M)

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority ("MTA") and the City of New York City Planning Commission ("CPC"), as the co-lead environmental agencies, intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") for the proposed Western Rail Yard Project.

The proposed actions include three sites – the Western Rail Yard, comprising approximately 13 acres bounded by Eleventh Avenue to the east, West 30th Street to the south, Twelfth Avenue to the west, and West 33rd Street to the north – as well as two city-owned "Additional Housing Sites": a site near Tenth Avenue and West 48th Street, and another at Ninth Avenue near West 54th Street. As a result of the proposed actions, the Western Rail Yards Site will be redeveloped with a mixed-use development to include commercial (retail, office and/or hotel) space, residential units (both market rate and affordable), a public school, other community facilities, open space, and parking. Affordable housing will be constructed at the two city-owned Additional Housing Sites, but the specific development programs for the sites have not been determined yet.

The principal actions to be analyzed include the following in connection with the proposal at the Western Rail Yard: (1) the lease of, with option to purchase, the air space over the Western Rail Yard by MTA to a development entity selected by MTA to carry out such mixed-use development; (2) zoning map and text amendments and accessory parking special permits by the City of New York pursuant to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure ("ULURP"); (3) the establishment of new legal grades in West 33rd Street between Eleventh and Twelfth Avenues; and (4) the site selection for a PS/IS school on the Western Rail Yard. The "Additional Housing Sites" involve the following actions: (1) the partial release of MTA's interest in the property located at the intersection of Ninth Avenue and West 54th Street in Manhattan to the City; and (2) disposition and other land use approvals for this MTA parcel and the other parcel located near the intersection of Tenth Avenue and West 48th Street in order to facilitate the development of affordable housing at these two sites.

A public scoping meeting has been scheduled on Thursday, October 2, 2008. The public meeting will be held at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, Room 1A-03-05 (enter on Eleventh Avenue). The scoping meeting will include both afternoon and evening sessions. The afternoon session will be held between 2:00 and 5:00 PM. The evening session will be held between 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM, and will extend later, as needed, to accommodate all those who register to speak prior to 9:00PM. Verbal testimony is limited to three (3) minutes for each speaker; however, written comments of any length will be accepted per the procedure outlined below. The public

hearing site is accessible for the mobility-impaired. Interpreter services will be available for the hearing-impaired upon advance request.

Copies of the Environmental Impact Statement Draft Scope of Work and the Environmental Assessment Statement/Environmental Assessment Form may be obtained from the Environmental Assessment and Review Division ("EARD"), New York City Department of City Planning, 22 Reade Street, 4E, New York, New York 10007, Robert Dobruskin, AICP, Director (212) 720-3423; or from the Office of Environmental Coordination, 253 Broadway, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10007, Robert Kulikowski, Director (212) 788-2937. The Draft Scope of Work will also be made available for download at www.nyc.gov/planning or www.mta.info.

Written comments on the Draft Scope of Work will be accepted by the co-lead agencies until the close of business on Tuesday, October 14, 2008. Written comments should be addressed to:

City of New York City Planning Commission
Attention: Robert Dobruskin, AICP
Director EARD, NYCDCP
22 Reade Street, Room 4E
New York, New York 10007

Or emailed to: WRYscopingcomments@planning.nyc.gov