FOREWORD

This document is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed 161st Street/River Avenue Rezoning. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed project was accepted as complete by the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) as lead agency on March 27, 2007. Public notice of completion of the DEIS was distributed and was published in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental News Bulletin and the New York City Record on April 8, 2009. A public notice was placed in a local newspaper, the New York Post, on June 11, 2009, to advise of the upcoming hearing on the DEIS on July 1, 2009. The City Planning Commission (CPC) held a public hearing on the DEIS at Spector Hall, New York City Department of City Planning, 22 Reade Street, on July 1, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. The period for the public to submit written comments remained open until July 13, 2009.

This FEIS reflects all substantive comments made on the DEIS during the public hearing and subsequent comment period. The comments are summarized and responded to in Chapter 3.13, "Responses to Comments on the Proposed Action" Changes to the text and graphics from the DEIS were made in this FEIS, as necessary, in response to these comments. Unless otherwise indicated by a footnote, this Foreword, and Chapter 3.13, all changes to text since publication of the DEIS are marked by double-underlining the text in this FEIS. Where appropriate, deleted text is indicated by a notation.

Key changes between the DEIS and FEIS for the 161st Street/River Avenue Rezoning are as follows:

- Chapter 3.3, Traffic and Parking, has been updated to include additional information on capacity and utilization of off-street parking facilities.

- Chapter 3.4, Transit and Pedestrians, this chapter has been revised since the release of the DEIS. The analysis of bus service in the FEIS no longer shows a the significant adverse impacts to bus service in the study area that were disclosed in the DEIS. This is primarily due to revised assumptions for standard and articulated bus capacity used for the FEIS transit analysis. The results of the revised FEIS bus service analysis project no capacity deficits would occur on the analyzed bus routes in the study area, as a result of the proposed action. In addition, the FEIS includes a revised subway stairway analysis of the 161st Street Yankee Stadium station and the subway service section of the Transit and Pedestrian chapter now includes an analysis of fare control access points to the station.

- Chapter 3.8, Alternatives, this chapter has been revised to reflect revisions to the Transit and Pedestrians Chapter (Chapter 3.4) as discussed above. Revisions were made to the transit analysis sections of the No-Action Alternative and the Lesser Density Alternative.

- Chapter 3.9, Mitigation, has been modified to reflect the revisions made to the Transit and Pedestrian chapter (Chapter 3.4) as discussed above. The Mitigation Chapter no longer discusses potential transit mitigation measures.

- Chapter 3.13, Responses To Public Comments On The Proposed Actions, lists and responds to comments made on the 161st Street/River Avenue Rezoning Draft Scope of Work, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and specific comments made by the Bronx Borough President's Office. The comments include oral comments made during public meetings on the proposed rezoning, as well as written comments received by the Department of City Planning.

- The Appendices have been revised to include the following:

    - Appendix B - Public Comment Letters