Foreword

This document is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Western Rail Yard project (the "Proposed Actions"). The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and City of New York City Planning Commission (CPC) as co-lead agencies under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) issued a notice of completion of the Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS) and made the DEIS available for public review on May 15, 2009. Oral and written comments were received during a public hearing held by MTA and CPC on September 9, 2009. Written comments were accepted from issuance of the DEIS through the public comment period, which ended September 21, 2009.

This FEIS reflects all relevant substantive comments made on the DEIS during the public hearing and subsequent written comment period. The comments are summarized and responded to in Chapter 29, "Response to Comments on the DEIS." This FEIS also reflects changes to the Proposed Actions that were made subsequent to the issuance of the DEIS and all substantive changes to technical analyses resulting from DEIS comments, agency reviews, and material changes in conditions since issuance of the DEIS.

The FEIS includes the following principal changes:

- The DEIS indicated that the Proposed Actions would include approximately 5 acres of publicly accessible open space. The proposed open space has been increased to 5.45 acres based on the requirements of the proposed zoning text. The technical analyses in this FEIS have been updated to reflect this increase.
- In the Future without the Proposed Action, the DEIS assumed that all seats in the expanded PS 51 (which is not part of the Proposed Actions) would be for elementary students. In August 2009, the proposed program for the expansion of PS 51 was identified in the *West 44th Street and Eleventh Avenue Rezoning Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement* as including both elementary and intermediate school seats. Chapter 5, "Community Facilities" of this FEIS analyzes the currently anticipated number of elementary and intermediate school seats at the expanded PS 51.
- As requested by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), additional modeling/analysis was conducted to assess the potential impact of the Proposed Actions on wastewater flows to the collection system for the North River Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP), and on typical annual combined-sewer overflows (CSOs) from each outfall in the system that discharges to the Hudson and Harlem Rivers during wet weather. The technical report is included in Appendix M1 of the FEIS; Chapter 14, "Infrastructure" has been revised to summarize the results of this analysis.
- Chapter 17, "Traffic and Parking," has been revised to include a discussion of the potential effects on the DEIS traffic analysis if the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) were to make permanent its pilot Green Light for Midtown Project, which

restricts vehicular access to portions of Broadway in midtown. Appendix E8, "Green Light for Midtown Project," was added to the Appendix.

- Chapter 24, "Mitigation" of the FEIS has been revised to include greater detail on certain mitigation measures where significant adverse impacts were identified in the DEIS.
- Two appendices have been updated to include additional agency correspondence: Appendix C, "Historic Resources," and Appendix M, "Infrastructure."

All text changes since publication of the DEIS are marked by double-underlining in this FEIS. No double-underlining is used for the Foreword or Chapter 29, both of which are entirely new.

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