Chapter 18: Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

A. INTRODUCTION

Unavoidable significant adverse impacts are defined as those that meet the following two criteria:

- There are no reasonably practicable mitigation measures to eliminate the impacts; and
- There are no reasonable alternatives to the proposed project that would meet the purpose and need of the action, eliminate the impact, and not cause other or similar significant adverse impacts.

As described in Chapter 17, "Mitigation," a number of the potential traffic impacts identified for the proposed actions could be mitigated. However, in the one case described below, project impacts on traffic circulation would not be fully mitigated.

B. TRANSPORTATION

As described in Chapter 11, "Transportation," traffic conditions were evaluated at 20 intersections, comprising 19 signalized locations and one unsignalized location. The analysis results show that significant adverse traffic impacts would be expected at five intersections during the weekday midday peak hour, at six intersections each during the weekday PM peak hour, and at seven intersections during the Saturday PM peak hour. Traffic improvement measures—including signal timing modifications, lane restriping, and changes to parking regulations—were explored to mitigate these significant adverse impacts.

With the proposed mitigation measures in place, unmitigated impacts would remain at one intersection, 20th Avenue and 86th Street, for all three peak hours in 2013. This intersection could not be mitigated due to the geometric constraints of the elevated subway line and the existence of metered parking spaces in front of active retail sites. ✷