24.0 Unavoidable Significant Adverse Impacts

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

- There are no reasonable mitigation measures that can be applied to eliminate the impact; and
- There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action that would meet the purpose and need of the action and eliminate the impact, yet not cause other or similar significant adverse impacts.

As detailed in Chapters 9, "Traffic and Parking" and 10, "Transit and Pedestrians," significant traffic volume would be added to existing volumes as a result of the projected buildout of over 6 million square feet of development and annual background traffic growth. Of the 32 locations analyzed during the weekday peak hours, significant adverse impacts would occur at 12 intersections during the AM peak hour, 11 intersections during the Midday peak hour, and 16 intersections during the PM peak hour. Significant adverse impacts would occur at 7 of the 21 intersections analyzed during the Saturday Midday peak hour. However, the application of standard traffic engineering measures, including the installation of traffic signals, modifications to signal timing and phasing, and parking prohibitions and lane restriping would fully mitigate these impacts. Therefore, the Proposed Action would result in no unmitigated significant adverse impacts. The Proposed Action would result in one significant adverse impact on the Q103 bus during the AM and PM peak hours. This impact would be mitigated by the addition of two northbound buses during the AM peak hour and one southbound bus during the PM peak hour. It is the general policy of MTA-NYCT to provide additional bus service where demand warrants.

The Proposed Action would also result in a significant adverse pedestrian impact at the pedestrian crossing locations across Vernon Boulevard at Queens Plaza South and 43rd Avenue, both of which are proximate to the Project Site. Installing traffic signals at both intersections would mitigate both significant adverse traffic and pedestrian impacts at this location.