



Robert Rodriguez
Chair

George Sarkissian
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
55 EAST 115TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10029-1101
TEL: (212) 831-8929/30
FAX: (212) 369-3571
www.cb11m.org

Testimony of Manhattan Community Board 11 Metropolitan Transportation Authority Contract 2 of Phase 1 of Second Avenue Subway Construction Public Hearing – April 30, 2007 Chair Robert Rodriguez

The construction of the Second Avenue Subway has been long awaited and eagerly anticipated. While our community of East Harlem waits for the benefits of Phase 2 of construction, currently unfunded, we have to cope with the impacts of Phase 1 construction which has already begun.

Contract 2 of Phase 1 will include construction of the 96th Street Station, along with its entrances and ancillary facilities. One of the proposed sites for an ancillary facility is in Community Board 11 and will involve the condemnation of a property on Second Avenue between East 96th Street and East 97th Street which is currently occupied by a lumber retailer. Community Board 11 opposes the use of eminent domain to obtain this site. Century Lumber has been an active business in Community Board 11 for decades and should not be forced to relocate.

The construction of Contract 2 will inevitably impact area residents and businesses. It is of utmost importance for the MTA to ensure all reasonable measures are employed to limit the amount of resulting air-borne particulate matter. The residents of Community Board 11 suffer from one of the highest rates of asthma in the country and should not be subject to any increases in air pollution which causes asthma. We are also very concerned with the expected elevated levels of noise caused by construction. Contractors must be sensitive to the sleeping patterns of area residents, limiting excessively loud construction to weekdays and utilizing all possible mitigation measures.

Our local businesses will also likely endure hardship throughout construction. As the staging area for much of the construction of the Second Avenue Subway, the playground on the corner of 96th Street and Second Avenue will be a burden on our local businesses for several years. Where as many other businesses along Second Avenue will only have to endure the impacts of construction on a temporary basis, those local businesses located on Second Avenue between 96th Street and 97th Street must be inconvenienced for the duration of construction. Without sufficient on-street parking and reduced exposure and visibility to customers, many local businesses are may not survive to enjoy the benefits of the new subway line. It is therefore imperative for the MTA to make the necessary accommodations and work with local businesses on Second Avenue between 96th Street and 97th Street throughout construction to ensure they stay alive.

We hope the fully built Second Avenue Subway line will benefit all the residents of the East side of Manhattan. We look forward to working closely with the MTA for the duration of construction and believe it is in our mutual interest to minimize the impact subway construction will have so that we may all benefit from the improved transportation and access it provides.