



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 10 2005

Bernard Cohen, Director
Lower Manhattan Recovery Office
Federal Transit Administration
One Bowling Green
Room 436
New York, New York 10004

Dear Mr. Cohen:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final environmental impact statement (final EIS) for the Permanent World Trade Center (WTC) PATH terminal project (CEQ # 20050188). This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7609, PL 91-604 12(a), 84 Stat. 1709), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The final EIS proposes the reconstruction of a permanent terminal at the WTC site, which will be a full service, regional transportation hub. Of the alternatives presented, the preferred is the Terminal without the Liberty Plaza Connection. This alternative is expected to achieve the goals of creating a world class intermodal transportation facility, support the redevelopment of Lower Manhattan, and restore and enhance the long term PATH service between New Jersey and Lower Manhattan.

In July 2004, EPA commented on the draft EIS for this project, wherein we rated the project with Environmental Concerns (EC), and insufficient information (2). Our rating was based upon the concerns with the project's impacts to air quality, both directly and cumulatively, and the need for further information regarding the analyses that were performed and mitigation measures for air impacts.

The final EIS adequately addresses our concerns. We want to reiterate our support for the Environmental Performance Commitments (EPCs), the Construction Environmental Protection Plan (CEPP), and the revised and coordinated construction schedule as developed by the Construction Coordination Group. EPA commends FTA on the advancement of the EPCs and we appreciate your staff's commitment to these environmental stewardship measures. We also support the sustainable design guidelines and "green construction" for the project. Our belief is that all of these efforts will minimize the impacts to air quality and other resources of concern and provide sufficient protection to human health and the environment of Lower Manhattan. We also encourage FTA to continue to explore additional mitigation measures, such as emulsified fuels and electrification, for feasibility and use. We recommend that the EPCs, the CEPP and the implementation plan should all appear in the Record of Decision (ROD) to memorialize these exceptional commitments.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact David Carlson of my staff at (212) 637-3502.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Filippelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

John Filippelli, Chief
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch