

APPENDIX F

Comment Letters on FEIS

GOVERNORS ISLAND
PRESERVATION & EDUCATION
CORPORATION

To: Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
Attn: Christina Hynes
From: Ellen Cavanagh, Project Manager
Date: July 2, 2007
Re: East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers Final Environmental Impact
Statement Comments

As stated in our earlier letter of support, GIPEC supports the Proposed Action and looks forward to the vibrant, active and welcoming waterfront the East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers Project would provide. As an integral part of New York's emergent Harbor District, the Proposed Action will contribute considerably to the experience of visitors to Governors Island. GIPEC's main point of interest in the Proposed Action is the Battery Maritime Building ("BMB") Pedestrian Plaza, which is the gateway to Governors Island. Even as other points of departure are established, the BMB and its surrounds will continue to be a critical element of the Governors Island experience.

Currently, the BMB is the sole point of access for the movement of passengers, goods, and vehicles to support all maintenance, planning, increased public access and other operations on the Island. Current operations, as well as the effective redevelopment of Governors Island, require ongoing pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to the BMB, as it will continue to be a main point of access for visitors to the Island. Although Governors Island anticipates the creation of a new mainland ferry landing for vehicles and passengers, there is a high likelihood that a significant number of passengers, trucks, and support vehicles (for service, emergency, delivery and construction) will require access to Governors Island via the BMB in both the short and long term.

GIPEC agrees that the current configuration of roadway and sidewalk creates an unpleasant experience for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as a difficult connection between the BMB and points north and west. GIPEC supports moving the entrance to the Battery Park Underpass approximately 350 feet to the northeast and creating a new pedestrian plaza at the entrance to the BMB. We welcome a reconfiguration of traffic flow in the vicinity of the BMB to minimize pedestrian-vehicular conflicts and improve traffic operations. Because a majority of trips to the Island begin with the BMB, the creation of this new plaza and the reconfiguration of traffic flow will significantly improve the experience of Governors Island for visitors and Island workers alike. We also support an interim pedestrian bridge over the tunnel entrance as a means to provide better public access to the BMB and thus Governors Island.

We note that based on our previous comments on the draft scope, the DEIS included a statement that the final design of the BMB should consider access needs for Governors Island, which would include consideration of operational issues such as providing adequate space for queuing areas and truck turning radii at the BMB entrances. Access to the BMB and vicinity for Governors Island and other tenants should also be considered during the construction of the BMB plaza.

To conclude, GIPEC supports the Proposed Action, which promises to be a great public amenity and a contributing factor in the successful redevelopment of Governors Island. As transportation to and from Governors Island is critical to the future redevelopment of the Island, GIPEC is now seeking to ensure that its space and logistic requests are factored into the Proposed Action.

cc: Rachel Shatz, ESDC
William Kelley, NYCEDC
Linda Neal, NPS
Leslie Koch, GIPEC
Paul Kelly, GIPEC
Betty Chen, GIPEC

10 South Street, Battery Maritime Building, Slip 7
New York, NY 10004
212-480-2200 - Phone
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Fax

To: CHRISTINA HYNES From: ELLEN CAVANAGH

Fax: 212-962-2431 Pages: 3

Phone: Date:

Re: EAST RIVER WATERFRONT CC: FEIS

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Comments:

**Chinatown Tenant Union
Comments on the East River Waterfront Development EIS
Report
Submitted to the LMDC
July 2, 2007**



The Chinatown Tenants Union is comprised of more than 100 members, all of whom are residents of Chinatown, and more than 1,200 supporters in Chinatown.

As residents of Chinatown, we applaud the City of New York's Economic Development Corporation's desire to make the East River waterfront an attractive area for residents of Chinatown. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve the community for the benefit of the people who already reside there.

However, we are troubled by some of the comments that the EDC has made about the impact of development on Chinatown residents and businesses and also by the types of businesses and services that the EDC is proposing for the waterfront.

As stated in the East River Waterfront Economic Impact Statement, EDC projects that there will be no displacement due to the development of the waterfront. At the Chinatown Tenants Union we strongly believe that there will be significant primary and secondary displacement, and call for the EDC to further assess this issue through a second and broader study to examine the impacts of development on the displacement of both tenants and small business owners in Chinatown, one that would widen the zone to be studied further than the immediate area slated for development. We have seen from experience how development of new businesses can lead to secondary displacement and strongly recommend a new and broader study. In addition, we call on the city to develop proactive strategies as part of an overall plan for the community to mitigate the pressures of displacement of current residents and small businesses that will inevitably arise as the neighborhood desirability increases as a result of the waterfront development.

The Chinatown Tenants Union is excited by the idea of more community-oriented open space and businesses along the East River waterfront, but we want to ensure that these spaces and businesses serve the existing Chinese community that already lives in Chinatown close to the waterfront. We know that our tenants don't need, for example, high-priced flower shops or yoga studios—they need affordable goods and services. Also, small businesses owned by Asian immigrants are increasingly being pushed out of Chinatown due to rising rents. The waterfront space can and should be an affordable space for small businesses that cater to Chinatown residents to set up shop and should give preference to locally-owned and existing small businesses.

There is also a need for community spaces such as centers for the elderly and also young people, and we at the CTU believe that the EDC should also make the creation of more community spaces a priority during the development process.

In short, we applaud the vision of the EDC to create a more welcoming and open waterfront for the lower Manhattan community, and we urge you to create a waterfront that serves the needs of the low income Asian immigrant community that already lives and works in the area.

Thank you for your time.

Helena Wong
Representative for the Chinatown Tenant Union
c/o CAAAAY Organizing Asian Communities
191 E 3rd Street
New York, NY 10009
(212) 473 6485



Urban Justice Center
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Fax Cover Sheet

To:	From:
Christina Hynes	Laine Romero-Alston, UJC; Helena Wong, CTU/CAAAY
Against/for/alternate:	Sender's Phone:
LMDC	646 459-3011
To:	Date:
212-963-4531	July 3, 2007
Pages:	# of Pages (incl. cover):
	3
Re:	cc:
East River Waterfront Development	

Notes/Comment:

As per our conversation, I am fixing the public comment related to the East River Waterfront Development LIS as part of the public comment process. I appreciate your understanding in the complications we had in the submission process and appreciate your willingness to consider our perspectives and comments as part of this process. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 646-459-3011 or Helena Wong at (212) 473-6485



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 21 2007

Ms. Christina Hynes
Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
Attn: East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers Project
One Liberty Plaza
New York, NY 10006

Dear Ms Hynes:

In accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (CEQ # 20070217) for the East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers located in New York City, New York. The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC), with funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is proposing to improve public access to the waterfront, enhance pedestrian connectivity, and create waterfront amenities for public use and enjoyment along the esplanade between the Battery Maritime Building and Pier 42 on the lower east side of Manhattan. The proposed action would include a Program Zone under the FDR Drive for pavilions and temporary outdoor activities; a Recreation Zone along the edge of the water with seating, play spaces, and plantings, a uniform bikeway/walkway along South Street; and improvements to Piers 15, 35, 36, and 42, as well as the New Market Building and pier.

The FEIS addresses EPA concerns regarding the traffic analysis, general conformity and expected growth for the project. If you have any questions regarding this review or our comments, please contact Lingard Knutson at 212-637-3747.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Filippelli".

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

cc: Sean M. Moss, HUD Regional Director