

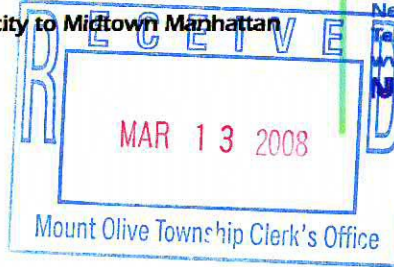


ACCESS TO THE REGION'S CORE

Expanding Trans-Hudson Rail Capacity to Midtown Manhattan

Scan + email TC
cc: Admin

NJ TRANSIT
One Penn Plaza East, 8th Floor
Newark, NJ 07105
Tel: 1-877-ARC-0999
www.access-to-the-region's-core.com
NJ TRANSIT
The Way To Go.



March 6, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to make available the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Access to the Region's Core (ARC) project. The ARC DEIS, issued in February 2007, presented a recommendation for improving commuter rail access into Midtown Manhattan. Based on comments received from individuals, organizations, agencies, and elected officials in New Jersey and New York, and through advancement of Preliminary Engineering, NJ TRANSIT, in partnership with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, has refined elements of the Build Alternative to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts, while still addressing the project goals and objectives. The ARC SDEIS documents the proposed physical and operational refinements to the DEIS Build Alternative and describes changes in social, economic and environmental impacts.

The major elements of the ARC project, documented in the SDEIS, include the construction of loop tracks connecting to the Northeast Corridor (NEC) at Frank R. Lautenberg Station, a new rail yard in Kearny, New Jersey, and two tunnels under the Palisades in New Jersey and the Hudson River that would connect to a New York Penn Station Expansion (NYPSE) under West 34th Street in Manhattan.

I look forward to your comments on the SDEIS during the public review period, which begins on March 14, 2008, and continues through April 28, 2008. Comments on the ARC SDEIS can be provided by mail, web site, email, or in person at one of the two public hearings. The public hearings will take place in New Jersey on March 31, 2008 and in New York City on April 1, 2008. Further information regarding these options and the schedule for the two public hearings are included in the enclosed announcement.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this very important project. I look forward to your questions and comments on this phase of the environmental process.

Sincerely,

Tom Schulze, Director
Access to the Region's Core

**NJ TRANSIT PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE ACCESS TO THE REGION'S CORE PROJECT**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) hereby announce the availability of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) and Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Access to the Region's Core (ARC) project for public review and comment. This SDEIS has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act, the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980, the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines.

As a result of public and agency comments received on the February 2007 DEIS Build Alternative, and advancement of preliminary engineering, NJ TRANSIT has refined elements of the Build Alternative to avoid, minimize or mitigate projected impacts. The ARC SDEIS describes the proposed physical and operational refinements to the DEIS proposed action and describes changes in the social, economic, and environmental impacts. The ARC project extends from just west of Frank R. Lautenberg Station in Secaucus, New Jersey to Fifth Avenue and West 34th Street in Manhattan. The project would include the construction of loop tracks connecting to the Northeast Corridor (NEC) at Frank R. Lautenberg Station, a new rail yard in Kearny, New Jersey, and two tunnels under the Palisades in New Jersey and the Hudson River that would connect to a New York Penn Station Expansion (NYPSE).

Federal funds will be sought to implement this project. The non-federal share will be provided by the State of New Jersey and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ). The PANYNJ is working in partnership with NJ TRANSIT on the ARC project. Additionally, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Coast Guard, and Federal Railroad Administration are EIS cooperating agencies.

NJ TRANSIT will conduct two (2) public hearings to receive oral and written comments on the ARC SDEIS. The hearings, which will be in open house format, will include informational displays and a presentation, and will provide the public an opportunity to learn about the findings, ask questions, and offer comments as testimony. Information regarding this project, including the ARC SDEIS, the Section 4(f) Evaluation, and impacts to historic resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), is available on the project website at: www.accesstotheregionscore.com. Interested persons may submit, in writing, comments concerning the findings of the ARC SDEIS to: Tom Schulze, NJ TRANSIT ARC Project Director, One Penn Plaza East, 8th Floor, Newark, NJ 07105 or email sdeis@accesstotheregionscore.com. The comment period for this project begins on March 14, 2008. Comments must be submitted to NJ TRANSIT by April 28, 2008.

PUBLIC HEARING DATES AND MEETING LOCATIONS

Monday, March 31, 2008

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
One Newark Center, 17th Floor
Raymond Boulevard
Newark, NJ 07102
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
199 Water Street
22nd Floor
New York, NY 10038
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

A presentation will be given at 3:30 PM during the daytime session and at 6:30 PM during the evening session. Registration to speak will be open until 4:00 PM for the daytime session and until 7:00 PM for the evening session on the day of the hearing. Verbal testimony is limited to three (3) minutes for each speaker. To register to speak in advance of the hearing, please call (877)-ARC-0999. The public hearing sites are accessible to the mobility-impaired. Interpreter services will be available for the hearing-impaired. A Spanish language interpreter will also be available. Identification will be required to enter the public hearing locations.

OVER →

Copies of the ARC SDEIS, which documents the purpose and need of the project along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, are available for review and comment by any individual, citizen group or public agency during normal business hours at the following locations in New York and New Jersey:

Federal Transit Administration Regional Office One Bowling Green, Room 429 New York, NY 10004-1415 (212) 668-2170	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey 233 Park Avenue South, 11 th Floor New York, NY 10003 212-435-4421	Community Board 4 330 West 42 nd Street, 26 th Floor New York, NY 10036 (212) 736-4536
Community Board 5 450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109 New York, NY 10123 (212) 465-0907	Humanities & Social Sciences Library Fifth Avenue and 42 nd Street New York, NY 10018 (212) 930-0830	Science, Industry, Business Library 188 Madison Avenue (at 34 th Street) New York, NY 10016 (212) 592-7000
Rockland County, New York Municipal Building Allison-Parris County Office Building 11 New Hempstead Road New City, NY 10956 (845) 638-5100	Orange County, New York Municipal Building County Government Center 255 Main Street Goshen, NY 10924 (845) 291-2318	Westchester County, New York Municipal Building Michaelian Office Building 148 Martine Avenue White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 995-2170
NJ TRANSIT Corporation Headquarters One Penn Plaza East Newark, NJ 07105 (973) 491-7846	Bergen County Administrative Building One Bergen County Plaza, Room 520 Hackensack, NJ 07601 (201) 336-6000	Essex County Administration Building Hall of Records, Room 510 465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 07105 (973) 621-4400
Hudson County Brennan Court House Building 583 Newark Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07306 (201) 795-6200	Hunterdon County Rt.12 County Complex 71 Main Street Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 788-1102	Mercer County McDade Administration Building 640 South Broad Street Trenton, NJ 08650 (609) 989-6998
Middlesex County Administration Building 1 JFK Square New Brunswick, NJ 08901 (732) 745-3000	Monmouth County Hall of Records Annex One East Main Street Freehold, NJ 07728 (732) 431-7460	Morris County Administration & Records Building Court Street, 5th Floor Morristown, NJ 07960 (973) 285-6040
Passaic County Administration Building 401 Grand Street Passaic, NJ 07505 (973) 881-4405	Somerset County Administration Building 20 Grove Street Somerville, NJ 08876 (908) 231-7040	Union County Administration Building 10 Elizabeth Plaza, 6th Floor Elizabeth, NJ 07207 (908) 527-4200
North Bergen Library 8411 Bergenline Avenue North Bergen, NJ 07047 (201) 869-4715	Hoboken Library 500 Park Avenue Hoboken, NJ 07030 (201) 420-2280	Kearny Main Library 318 Kearny Avenue Kearny, NJ 07032 (201) 998-2666
Union City Library 324 43 rd Street Union City, NJ 07087 (201) 866-7500	Weehawken Township Library 49 Hauxhurst Avenue Weehawken, NJ 07086 (201) 863-7823	Jersey City Main Library 472 Jersey Ave. Jersey City, NJ 07302 (201) 547-4500
Secaucus Main Library 1379 Paterson Plank Road Secaucus, NJ 07094 (201) 330- 2083		

This notice is published in accordance with the public notice requirements of 23 CFR Section 771.123(i) as published in the Federal Register Vol. 52, No. 167, Rules and Regulations.

Richard R. Sarles
Executive Director
New Jersey Transit Corporation