



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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July 10, 2009

Adrienne Taub
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004
via e-mail to adrienne.taub@nyc.com

**Re: Comments on Proposed Emergency Ventilation Structure at
Mulry Square**

Dear Ms. Taub:

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) has reviewed the MTA/NYC Transit's materials illustrating the three options it is proposing for an Emergency Ventilation Structure at Mulry Square. GVSHP has expressed serious concerns to the MTA/NYC Transit in the past about these plans, and we continue to have deep reservations about what has been presented.

I must reiterate that no clear rationale has yet been presented as to why this structure must be built at this particular location, which is not only surrounded by sensitive historic resources, but is adjacent to the massive planned St. Vincent's/Rudin development, construction and demolition for which is likely to take years and will overlap with the construction of the planned Emergency Ventilation Plant. In terms of a location and its potential negative impact, it would seem that few poorer choices could have been made.

The MTA's last presentation of possibilities for construction of an Emergency Ventilation Plant included several options which would place the structure entirely underground. However, the MTA's newest presentation only includes three above-ground possibilities. Little rationale has been provided as to why the below-ground possibilities have been eliminated, other than perhaps the convenience of the MTA.

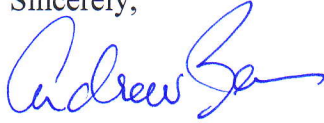
The proposed designs for the new above-ground Emergency Ventilation Plant structure are extremely disappointing at best, especially as they relate to integration of the 9-11 Memorial Tiles. Without getting into the details of the relative drawbacks of each particular design proposal, I instead suggest that the MTA consider doing here what it has done with other projects across the city, which is engage an outside design consultant. Hopefully such additional expertise would help the MTA to better engage and address the design issues with the structure, the 9-11 Tiles, the site, and its context.

Finally, it must also be noted that the tiny amount of open space which any of these plans leave for the public is extremely disappointing. The public was lead to believe that as mitigation for this project, the MTA would create a meaningful

and usable public open space on the site. However, the dimensions of the site proposed to be dedicated to public use are minimal, and seem hardly usable.

I strongly urge the MTA to consider and respond to these issues before making any decisions regarding the location of and design for the Emergency Ventilation Plant structure.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: New York State Historic Preservation Office
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
NYC Design Review Commission
Borough President Scott Stringer
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
State Senator Tom Duane
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Community Board #2
Greenwich Village Block Associations
Mulry Angle/West 11th Street Block Association