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INDEPENDENT SURVEY SUPPORTS CONCLUSIONS OF HIGH TRANSIT USE TO THE NEW YORK SPORTS AND CONVENTION CENTER

Finds Jets Move from Meadowlands to Manhattan Will Take Thousands of Cars off the Roads

June 23, 2004 - Highlighting the potential for an extension of the No. 7 line to catalyze sustainable, transit-oriented development, the city released a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) this week on the Hudson Yards/7 Line Extension, that includes an independent survey of New York Jets seasons ticket-holders confirming that the overwhelmingly majority of fans will use mass-transit to travel to the New York Sports and Convention Center (NYSCC) on the far west side. A total of 67 percent of fans questioned by Schulman, Ronca and Bucuvalas, Inc. on behalf of the Department of City Planning (DCP) and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) said they would use existing mass-transit to commute to the future Sports and Convention Center between 30th and 33rd Streets, and 11th and 12th Avenues. But with the extension of the 7 Line to 11th Avenue and 34th Street, fully 75 percent of season ticket holders would travel to games via mass transit.

The survey found that incentives, such as facilities added ferry service or discounts on mass transit would further increase mass transit use. With such incentives, significantly more Jets season ticket holders surveyed stated that they would arrive by mass transit. Although the survey results showed higher mass transit usage, to be conservative, the DGEIS assumes that only 68 percent of attendees would use mass transit, including subways, commuter rail, ferry and buses.

"The study underscores how a strong mass transit network will help make Hudson Yards a vibrant 24/7 neighborhood complete with cultural, convention and cultural attractions, commercial and residential development, retail, cafés, parks and unique open spaces," said City Planning Director Amanda M. Burden.

The future mass-transit usage to the NYSCC would be a sea change from current travel patterns to the Meadowlands where almost all current season ticket holders, 95 percent, drive to the Meadowlands. This demonstrates the environmental benefits of centrally locating high-density activities with excellent mass transit. Midtown Manhattan already enjoys by far the highest mass transit usage of any area of the country, with more than 80 percent of commuters walking or using mass transit to travel to work.

The greatest increase in mass-transit usage will be from Jets season ticket holders who travel to the NYSCC from Long Island. Currently, almost all these Long Island fans drive to the Meadowlands, but 83 percent say they will take mass transit to the Sports and Convention Center in Manhattan. The increase is attributable to NYSCC'S proximity to Penn Station, and the ease of commuting on the Long Island Railroad.

The survey was commissioned as part of the Environmental Review process. "Modal Split Survey - Jets Season Ticket Holders" was conducted in May, and 600 season ticket holders were surveyed.

About City Planning

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