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MEDIA ADVISORY

September 2, 2008

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HARLEM TASK FORCE HELPS GREEN MTA BUS DEPOT

Community-Based Planning Meeting Sept. 20 To Minimize Diesel Impact on Community

The *Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot Task Force*, comprised of WE ACT for Environmental Justice, a leading advocate for environmental justice for two decades; the offices of Assemblyman Herman "Denny" Farrell, state Senator Bill Perkins, and Councilwoman Inez Dickens, who each represent the area around the existing Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot on West 146th Street (between Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and Malcolm X Boulevards); Community Board 10; and concerned community members throughout West and Central Harlem, will hold a daylong charrette to give the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) input on the community impact of the ongoing demolition of the old depot and construction of a new depot.

The charrette will occur Saturday, September 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the A. Philip Randolph Senior Center, 108 West 146th Street (near the bus depot). Childcare will be provided.

The charrette will allow small breakout groups of community residents to discuss the new depot's impact in terms of its future water usage, energy usage, landscaping, and building materials. Locally based experts, such as researchers and architects, will lead each breakout group. Each group will have facilitators, as well as stenographers to take minutes.

The Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot Task Force is working with the MTA toward incorporating the following features and practices into the new depot:

- * Fewer emissions from buses and the depot itself, using best available technologies;
- * A greater proportion of hybrid-electric (low emission) buses when the depot re-opens;
- * All buses housed inside the depot to prevent outdoor idling;
- * Modulating lighting to prevent disruption to nearby residential neighborhoods at night;
- * Achieving a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification of “Silver,” which is higher than the minimum to be called a “green building”;
- * Using landscaping and solar panels on the green roof to minimize the “heat island effect” and reduce the MTA’s energy bills;
- * Installing landscaping and culturally appropriate artwork around the depot to better blend the depot with the surrounding residential community;
- * Using recycled water for washing and all other non-potable uses.

MTA air monitors have been installed at the A. Philip Randolph Senior Center, used by senior citizens and also near a large children’s playground, to check dust particulates from the construction. The task force is delighted to report that the monitors’ findings meet all air quality standards so far.

NOTE TO MEDIA: If you are unable to cover this, please include on your community calendars.

WHAT: Charrette to minimize pollution in Harlem at new Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot

WHEN: Saturday, September 20, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: A. Philip Randolph Senior Center, 108 West 146th Street (near the bus depot)

WHO: Anyone in the affected neighborhood (between 141st and 155th Streets and between Bradhurst and Fifth Avenues, centered on the Esplanade Gardens complex); childcare will be provided

WHY: To ensure the new depot becomes a community asset with the most modern features

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