

**Lower Manhattan Development Corporation  
Meeting of the Transportation and Commuters Advisory Council  
Meeting Summary  
March 5, 2002  
One Liberty Plaza  
5:30-7:30 PM**

**LMDC Board Members: Lew Eisenberg, Howard Wilson, Bob Harding**

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board Member Bob Harding, Howard Wilson and Lew Eisenberg welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mr. Wilson then opened up the meeting and invited Advisory Council members to discuss their ideas and concerns.

Several members of the Advisory Council pointed out that the majority of people who come to Lower Manhattan get here through public transportation or on foot. It is a very transit dependent area. There was a suggestion to keep transportation in Lower Manhattan as auto-free and transit friendly as possible. To accomplish that goal, it was suggested that any new transportation system should be fully integrated and function as a true system, with better connections to the rest of Manhattan and other boroughs. It was also recommended that creative ways to get people into Lower Manhattan from other boroughs, New Jersey and Connecticut should also be explored.

A member of the Advisory Council briefly spoke about a coalition called the Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown which has been looking at the issue of transportation, and as a result, has created a series of concepts. A suggestion was made to have the Civic Alliance present their views/ concepts at a future meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the future of bus transportation in Lower Manhattan and the need to come up with better solutions to increase the use of surface transportation and provide the appropriate infrastructure to support the increased usage.

There was consensus that mass transit is a powerful driving force in the economy and that expanding rail transit throughout the area will be an important part of revitalizing the downtown economy. Expanded use of the waterways was also suggested as a way to bring people to Lower Manhattan from other parts of New York City and New Jersey. A representative from the Mayor's Office indicated that New York City was looking at this issue and would be announcing a plan within the next couple of weeks.

There was discussion surrounding increasing mass transit on the east side of Manhattan, including the Second Avenue Subway, and the need to examine ways to make it easier for buses and other forms of surface transportation to operate throughout Lower Manhattan. Several suggestions were made to improve the circulation at street level for pedestrians including the creation of taxi and bicycle stands. It was also recommended that any transportation plans for Lower Manhattan include provisions to create a more walkable downtown which could include reestablishing view corridors, widening of the streets, adding streetscape improvements/enhancements, and establishing better east/west, river to river connections not only for pedestrians, but also for mass transit.

The Advisory Council Members stressed the need for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century transportation system that includes a major transportation hub. The Council also spoke about the importance of communicating with businesses in the downtown area new transportation and other projects/plans so corporations are aware of the progress to rebuild the infrastructure, which is so important to them and their employees.

A representative from Councilman Gerson's Office notified the group of a City Council Hearing taking place at 1:00 PM on Thursday at City Hall regarding transportation issues and invited members of the Advisory Council to participate.

Mr. Harding, Mr. Eisenberg and Mr. Wilson concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and indicated that the group would be meeting again in the coming weeks. The meeting adjourned.