

3.11.8 Construction Neighborhood Character

3.11.8.1 Introduction

This section assesses the potential for the Proposed Project to result in significant adverse impacts to neighborhood character during construction. Neighborhood character is defined by the *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual* as a combination of physical and social features that together define a neighborhood's "personality." These elements typically include a combination of land use, socioeconomic conditions, open spaces, historic and cultural resources, urban design and visual setting, transportation features, and ambient noise. To determine the effects of a proposed project on neighborhood character during the construction period, the defining features of neighborhood character are considered in combination and are presented in this section.

3.11.8.2 Principal Conclusions

The construction effects from the Proposed Project would be temporary and localized, confined largely to the buildings and streets surrounding the Project Area. However, as identified in Section 3.11.1, "Construction Overview," the Proposed Project would result in significant adverse open space, traffic, and noise impacts during the construction period. Therefore, since these elements that are part of the defining features of neighborhood character would have the potential for significant adverse impacts, the Proposed Project is expected to result in significant adverse neighborhood character impacts during the construction period.

3.11.8.3 Regulatory Context

Although there are no special statutes, regulations, or standards that pertain to the analysis of neighborhood character, it is recommended in the *CEQR Technical Manual* that applicable regulations and standards for each technical analysis in a neighborhood character assessment be discussed.

3.11.8.4 No Action Conditions

In the No Action condition, it is assumed that there would be no flood barrier system installed in the Project Area and the Battery Park Esplanade and adjoining parks would largely remain as in existing conditions, with the exception of one project to improve drainage in Rockefeller Park. These targeted drainage improvements in Rockefeller Park are part of an independent project within Battery Park City that will move forward under the direction of BPCA with the objective of repairing and improving the existing drainage system. These improvements would have very limited and targeted areas of disturbance and are expected to be completed in 2025. Ultimately, no significant construction activities are anticipated in the absence of the Proposed Project. Therefore, there would be no significant adverse impacts to neighborhood character associated with construction in the No Action condition.

3.11.8.5 Proposed Action Conditions

Construction activities would adhere to all applicable New York City laws and regulations. In addition, throughout the construction period, measures would be implemented to control noise, vibration, and air

emissions including dust. Fencing would be erected to reduce potentially undesirable views of construction areas, to buffer noise emitted from construction activities, and to protect the safety of pedestrians during construction. Maintenance and Protection of Traffic (MPT) plans would be developed in coordination with the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT). Furthermore, access to surrounding residences and businesses would be maintained throughout the duration of the construction period.

However, during construction, the Project Area and the immediately surrounding area would be subject to added traffic from construction trucks and worker vehicles. In addition, construction work, staging activities, temporary sidewalks, construction fencing, and construction equipment would be visible to pedestrians in the immediate vicinity of the Project Area. Furthermore, during construction, it is expected that the setting of the Hudson River Park at the southern end where it meets Battery Park City would be temporarily affected by the positioning of barges and cranes necessary to reconstruct the North Esplanade and install the flood barrier system. Most of the moorings in the Pier 25 Marina would be temporarily inaccessible as a result of construction. Kayakers would need to avoid this area during the course of construction. Once construction is completed, the temporarily displaced moorings would be restored at their current locations. These construction activities would also require implementing a temporary construction access agreement with NYSDEC, the New York State Office of General Services and/or HRPT. The North Cove Marina would also be closed for the duration of construction at Reach 5. Although the effects would be temporary and localized, confined largely to the buildings and streets surrounding the Project Area, as identified in Sections 3.11.2, “Construction Open Space,” 3.11.4, “Construction Transportation,” and 3.11.7, “Construction Noise,” the Proposed Project would result in significant adverse open space, transportation and noise impacts during the construction period.

There may be temporary unmitigatable significant adverse traffic and pedestrian impacts throughout the 7-month Early Works Package (EWP) and temporary unmitigated significant adverse effects on pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the duration of the construction schedule due to pedestrian and cyclist diversions from closed open spaces.

Therefore, since several of these defining features of neighborhood character would have the potential for significant adverse impacts, the Proposed Project is expected to result in significant adverse neighborhood character impacts during the construction period.