

A. INTRODUCTION

The potential for air quality impacts from the proposed project is examined in this chapter. Air quality impacts can be either direct or indirect. Direct impacts stem from emissions generated by stationary sources at a development site, such as emissions from fuel combustion on-site for heating and hot water systems. Indirect impacts could be caused by emissions from nearby existing stationary sources and the emissions from on-road vehicle trips generated by the proposed project or other changes to future traffic conditions due to the proposed project.

Potential effects of air toxic emissions on future visitors to the proposed park area also assessed. Potential for exposure to air toxic compounds includes both onsite and off-site air emission sources. Nearby industrial sites are the most likely off-site sources to be found in the area. Onsite sources include existing Department of Sanitation (DSNY) facilities and other sources that are mostly related to the landfill gas venting and collection systems and the landfill as flares. These analyses are summarized in Chapter 21, "Public Health."

B. POLLUTANTS FOR ANALYSIS

Ambient air quality is affected by air pollutants produced by both motor vehicles and stationary sources. Emissions from motor vehicles are referred to as mobile source emissions, while emissions from fixed facilities are referred to as stationary source emissions. Ambient concentrations of CO are predominantly influenced by mobile source emissions. Particulate matter (PM), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and nitrogen oxides (NO and NO₂, collectively referred to as NO_x) are emitted from both mobile and stationary sources. Fine PM is also formed when emissions of NO_x, sulfur oxides (SO_x), ammonia, organic compounds, and other gases react or condense in the atmosphere. Emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) are associated mainly with stationary sources, and sources utilizing such non-road diesel as diesel trains, marine engines, and non-road vehicles (e.g., construction engines). On-road diesel vehicles currently contribute very little to SO₂ emissions since the sulfur content of on-road diesel fuel, which is federally regulated, is extremely low. Ozone is formed in the atmosphere by complex photochemical processes that include NO_x and VOCs.

CARBON MONOXIDE

CO, a colorless and odorless gas, is produced in the urban environment primarily by the incomplete combustion of gasoline and other fossil fuels. In urban areas, approximately 80 to 90 percent of CO emissions are from motor vehicles. Since CO is a reactive gas that does not persist in the atmosphere, CO concentrations can vary greatly over relatively short distances; elevated concentrations are usually limited to locations near crowded intersections, heavily traveled and congested roadways, parking lots, and garages. Consequently, CO concentrations must be predicted on a local, or microscale, basis.

The proposed project would result in changes in traffic patterns and an increase in traffic volume in the study area. Therefore, a mobile source analysis was conducted at critical intersections in the study area to evaluate future CO concentrations with and without the proposed project.

NITROGEN OXIDES, VOCs, AND OZONE

NO_x are of principal concern because of their role, together with VOCs, as precursors in the formation of ozone. Ozone is formed through a series of reactions that take place in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. Because the reactions are slow, and occur as the pollutants are advected downwind, elevated ozone levels are often found many miles from sources of the precursor pollutants. The effects of NO_x and VOC emissions from all sources are therefore generally examined on a regional basis. The contribution of any action or project to regional emissions of these pollutants would include any added stationary or mobile source emissions. The change in regional mobile source emissions of these pollutants would be related to the total vehicle miles traveled added or subtracted on various roadway types throughout the New York metropolitan area, which is designated as a moderate non-attainment area for ozone by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The proposed project would not have a significant effect on the overall volume of vehicular travel in the metropolitan area; therefore, no measurable impact on regional NO_x emissions or on ozone levels is predicted. An analysis of project-related emissions of these pollutants from mobile sources was therefore not warranted.

There is a standard for average annual NO₂ concentrations, which is normally examined only for fossil fuel energy sources. An analysis of the potential NO₂ impacts from the proposed project's stationary sources of emissions was performed.

LEAD

Airborne lead emissions are principally associated with industrial sources and motor vehicles that use gasoline containing lead additives. Most U.S. vehicles produced since 1975, and all produced after 1980, are designed to use unleaded fuel. As these newer vehicles have replaced the older ones, motor vehicle related lead emissions have decreased. As a result, ambient concentrations of lead have declined significantly. Nationally, the average measured atmospheric lead level in 1985 was only about one-quarter the level in 1975.

In 1985, EPA announced new rules that drastically reduced the amount of lead permitted in leaded gasoline. The maximum allowable lead level in leaded gasoline was reduced from the previous limit of 1.1 to 0.5 grams per gallon effective July 1, 1985, and to 0.1 grams per gallon effective January 1, 1986. Monitoring results indicate that this action has been effective in significantly reducing atmospheric lead concentrations. Effective January 1, 1996, the Clean Air Act (CAA) banned the sale of the small amount of leaded fuel that was still available in some parts of the country for use in on-road vehicles, concluding the 25-year effort to phase out lead in gasoline. Even at locations in the New York City area where traffic volumes are very high, atmospheric lead concentrations are far below the national standard of 1.5 µg/m³ (three-month average).

No significant sources of lead are associated with the proposed project, and, therefore, an analysis of this pollutant from stationary or mobile sources is not warranted.

RESPIRABLE PARTICULATE MATTER—PM₁₀ AND PM_{2.5}

PM is a broad class of air pollutants that includes discrete particles of a wide range of sizes and chemical compositions, as either liquid droplets (aerosols) or solids suspended in the atmosphere. The constituents of PM are both numerous and varied, and they are emitted from a wide variety of sources (both natural and anthropogenic). Natural sources include the condensed and reacted forms of naturally occurring VOC; salt particles resulting from the evaporation of sea spray; wind-borne pollen, fungi, molds, algae, yeasts, rusts, bacteria, and material from live and decaying plant and animal life; particles eroded from beaches, soil, and rock; and particles emitted from volcanic and geothermal eruptions and from forest fires. Naturally occurring PM is generally greater than 2.5 micrometers in diameter. Major anthropogenic sources include the combustion of fossil fuels (e.g., vehicular exhaust, power generation, boilers, engines, and home heating), chemical and manufacturing processes, all types of construction, agricultural activities, as well as wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. PM also acts as a substrate for the adsorption of other pollutants, often toxic and some likely carcinogenic compounds.

As described below, PM is regulated in two size categories: particles with an aerodynamic diameter of less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers, or PM_{2.5}, and particles with an aerodynamic diameter of less than or equal to 10 micrometers, or PM₁₀, which includes the smaller PM_{2.5}. PM_{2.5} has the ability to reach the lower regions of the respiratory tract, delivering with it other compounds that adsorb to the surfaces of the particles, and is also extremely persistent in the atmosphere. PM_{2.5} is mainly derived from combustion material that has volatilized and then condensed to form primary PM (often soon after the release from an exhaust pipe or stack) or from precursor gases reacting in the atmosphere to form secondary PM.

Diesel-powered vehicles, especially heavy duty trucks and buses, are a significant source of respirable PM, most of which is PM_{2.5}. PM concentrations may, consequently, be locally elevated near roadways with high volumes of heavy diesel-powered vehicles. The proposed project would not result in any significant increases in truck traffic near the project site or in the region. The maximum number of projected automobile trips at an intersection is equivalent to approximately 18 additional truck trips based on MOBILE6.2 engine emission factors for the proposed project's 2036 Build year. This is below the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) current threshold (19 trucks, based on the average daily traffic volume and type of roadway) for conducting a PM_{2.5} microscale mobile source analysis. Therefore, an analysis of potential impacts from mobile sources of PM was not warranted.

SULFUR DIOXIDE

SO₂ emissions are primarily associated with the combustion of sulfur-containing fuels: oil and coal. Monitored SO₂ concentrations in New York City are below the national standards. Due to the Federal restrictions on the sulfur content in diesel fuel for on-road vehicles, no significant quantities are emitted from vehicular sources. Vehicular sources of SO₂ are not significant and therefore, an analysis of SO₂ from mobile sources was not warranted.

As part of the proposed project, fossil fuel would be burned in the proposed HVAC systems. Therefore, an analysis was performed to estimate the future levels of SO₂ with the proposed project.

C. AIR QUALITY REGULATIONS, STANDARDS, AND BENCHMARKS

NATIONAL AND STATE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS (NAAQS)

As required by the CAA, primary and secondary NAAQS have been established for six major air pollutants: CO, NO₂, ozone, respirable PM (both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), SO₂, and lead. The primary standards represent levels that are intended to protect the public health, allowing an adequate margin of safety. The secondary standards are intended to protect the nation's welfare and account for air pollutant effects on soil, water, visibility, materials, vegetation, and other aspects of the environment. For NO₂, ozone, lead, and PM, the primary and secondary standards are the same; there is no secondary standard for CO. The standards for these pollutants are presented in Table 18-1. These standards have also been adopted as the ambient air quality standards for New York State. In addition, New York State has established ambient air quality standards for total suspended particulate, non-methane hydrocarbons, beryllium, gaseous fluorides, and hydrogen sulfide.

On September 21, 2006, EPA revised the NAAQS for PM, effective December 18, 2006. The revision included lowering the level of the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard from 65 µg/m³ to 35 µg/m³ and retaining the level of the annual fine standard at 15 µg/m³. The PM₁₀ 24-hour average standard was retained, and the annual average PM₁₀ standard was revoked.

NAAQS ATTAINMENT STATUS AND STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLANS (SIP)

The CAA, as amended in 1990, defines non-attainment areas (NAAs) as geographic regions that have been designated as not meeting one or more of the NAAQS. When an area is designated as non-attainment by EPA, the state is required to develop and implement a State Implementation Plan (SIP), which delineates how a state plans to achieve air quality that meets the NAAQS under the deadlines established by the CAA.

EPA has re-designated New York City as in attainment for CO. The CAA requires that a maintenance plan ensure continued compliance with the CO NAAQS for former non-attainment areas. New York City is also committed to implementing site-specific control measures throughout the City to reduce CO levels, should unanticipated localized growth result in elevated CO levels during the maintenance period.

Manhattan has been designated as a moderate NAA for PM₁₀. On December 17, 2004, EPA took final action designating the five New York City counties and Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, Westchester, and Orange Counties as a PM_{2.5} non-attainment area under the CAA. State and local governments are required to develop SIPs by early 2008, which will be designed to meet the standards by 2010. As described above, EPA has revised the PM standards. Attainment designations for the new 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard would be effective by April 2010, PM_{2.5} SIPs would be due by April 2013, and would be designed to meet the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards by April 2015, although this may be extended in some cases up to April 2020.

Table 18-1
National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Pollutant	Primary		Secondary	
	ppm	µg/m ³	ppm	µg/m ³
Carbon Monoxide (CO)				
8-Hour Average ⁽¹⁾	9	10,000	None	
1-Hour Average ⁽¹⁾	35	40,000		
Lead				
3-Month Average	NA	1.5	NA	1.5
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)				
Annual Average	0.053	100	0.053	100
Ozone (O₃)				
8-Hour Average ⁽²⁾	0.075	147	0.075	147
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)				
Average of 3 Annual Means — revoked, effective December 18, 2006	NA	50	NA	50
24-Hour Average ⁽¹⁾	NA	150	NA	150
Fine Respirable Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})				
Average of 3 Annual Means	NA	15	NA	15
24-Hour Average ^(3,4)	NA	35	NA	35
Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)				
Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.03	80	NA	NA
Maximum 24-Hour Average ⁽¹⁾	0.14	365	NA	NA
Maximum 3-Hour Average ⁽¹⁾	NA	NA	0.50	1,300
Notes: ppm – parts per million µg/m ³ – micrograms per cubic meter NA – not applicable PM concentrations are in µg/m ³ since ppm is a measure for gas concentrations. Concentrations of all gaseous pollutants are defined in ppm and approximately equivalent concentrations in µg/m ³ are presented. (1) Not to be exceeded more than once a year. (2) Three-year average of the annual fourth highest daily maximum 8-hr average concentration. EPA has reduced these standards from 0.08 ppm, effective May 27, 2008. (3) Not to be exceeded by the annual 98th percentile when averaged over 3 years. (4) EPA has reduced these standards down from 65 µg/m ³ , effective December 18, 2006. Source: 40 CFR Part 50: National Primary and Secondary Ambient Air Quality Standards.				

Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, Westchester, and the five counties of New York City had been designated as a severe non-attainment area for ozone 1-hour standard. In November 1998, New York State submitted its *Phase II Alternative Attainment Demonstration for Ozone*, which was finalized and approved by EPA effective March 6, 2002, addressing attainment of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS by 2007. These SIP revisions included additional emission reductions that EPA requested to demonstrate attainment of the standard, and an update of the SIP estimates using the latest versions of the mobile source emissions model, MOBILE6.2, and the nonroad emissions model, NONROAD—which have been updated to reflect current knowledge of engine emissions and the latest mobile and nonroad engine emissions regulations.

On April 15, 2004, EPA designated these same counties as moderate non-attainment for the new 8-hour ozone standard, which became effective as of June 15, 2004. EPA revoked the 1-hour standard on June 15, 2005; however, the specific control measures for the 1-hour standard

included in the SIP will be required to stay in place until the 8-hour standard is attained. The discretionary emissions reductions in the SIP would also remain but could be revised or dropped based on modeling. The State is currently formulating a new SIP for ozone, which is expected to be adopted in the near future. The SIP will have a target attainment deadline of June 15, 2010.

In March 2008 EPA strengthened the 8-hour ozone standards. EPA expects designations to take effect no later than March 2010 unless there is insufficient information to make these designation decisions. In that case, EPA will issue designations no later than March 2011. SIPs would be due three years after the final designations are made.

DETERMINING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

Any action predicted to increase the concentration of a criteria air pollutant to a level that would exceed the concentrations defined by the NAAQS (see Table 18-1) would be deemed to have a potential significant adverse impact. In addition, to maintain concentrations lower than the NAAQS in attainment areas, or to ensure that concentrations will not be significantly increased in non-attainment areas, threshold levels have been defined for certain pollutants. Any action predicted to increase the concentrations of these pollutants above the thresholds would be deemed to have a potential significant adverse impact, even in cases where violations of the NAAQS are not predicted.

DE MINIMIS CRITERIA REGARDING CO IMPACTS

New York City has developed *de minimis* criteria to assess the significance of the incremental increase in CO concentrations that would result from proposed projects or actions, as set forth in the *CEQR Technical Manual*. These criteria set the minimum change in CO concentration that defines a significant environmental impact. Significant increases of CO concentrations in New York City are defined as: (1) an increase of 0.5 ppm or more in the maximum 8-hour average CO concentration at a location where the predicted No Build 8-hour concentration is equal to or between 8 and 9 ppm; or (2) an increase of more than half the difference between baseline (i.e., No Build) concentrations and the 8-hour standard, when No Build concentrations are below 8.0 ppm.

D. METHODOLOGY FOR PREDICTING POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS

MOBILE SOURCES

The number of project-generated and diverted vehicle trips exceeds the *CEQR Technical Manual* threshold of 100 at a number of locations in the primary and secondary traffic study areas. Therefore, a microscale analysis was conducted to assess the potential mobile source air quality impacts from the proposed project. In addition, to address long-term issues associated with new connections to the West Shore Expressway, critical locations were evaluated using the New York State's Department of Transportation's (NYSDOT) *Environmental Procedures Manual (EPM)*.

MICROSCALE ANALYSIS

The prediction of vehicle-generated CO emissions and their dispersion in an urban environment incorporates meteorological phenomena, traffic conditions, and physical configurations. Air pollutant dispersion models mathematically simulate how traffic, meteorology, and geometry

combine to affect pollutant concentrations. The mathematical expressions and formulations contained in the various models attempt to describe an extremely complex physical phenomenon as closely as possible. However, because all models contain simplifications and approximations of actual conditions and interactions, and it is necessary to predict the reasonable worst-case condition, most of these dispersion models predict conservatively high concentrations of pollutants.

The mobile source analyses for the proposed project employ models approved by EPA that have been widely used for evaluating air quality impacts of projects in New York City, other parts of New York State, and throughout the country. The modeling approach includes a series of conservative assumptions relating to meteorology, traffic, and background concentration levels, resulting in a conservatively high estimate of expected pollutant concentrations that could result from the proposed project.

Dispersion Model for Microscale Analyses

Maximum CO concentrations adjacent to streets near the project site and rezoning area, resulting from vehicle emissions, were predicted using the CAL3QHC model Version 2.0. The CAL3QHC model employs a Gaussian (normal distribution) dispersion assumption and includes an algorithm for estimating vehicular queue lengths at signalized intersections. CAL3QHC predicts emissions and dispersion of pollutants from idling and moving vehicles. The queuing algorithm includes site-specific traffic parameters, such as signal timing and delay calculations (from the 2000 *Highway Capacity Manual* traffic forecasting model), saturation flow rate, vehicle arrival type, and signal actuation (i.e., pre-timed or actuated signal) characteristics to accurately predict the number of idling vehicles. The CAL3QHC model has been updated with an extended module, CAL3QHCR, which allows for the incorporation of hourly meteorological data into the modeling, instead of worst-case assumptions regarding meteorological parameters. This refined version of the model is employed if maximum predicted future CO concentrations are greater than the applicable ambient air quality standards or when *de minimis* thresholds are exceeded using the first-level CAL3QHC modeling.

Meteorology

In general, the transport and concentration of pollutants from vehicular sources are influenced by three principal meteorological factors: wind direction, wind speed, and atmospheric stability. Wind direction influences the accumulation of pollutants at a particular prediction location (receptor), and atmospheric stability accounts for the effects of vertical mixing in the atmosphere.

Following the EPA guidelines, CO computations were performed using a wind speed of 1 meter per second, a 1,000 meter mixing height and the neutral stability class D. Concentrations were calculated using a wind angle increment of 1 degree. The 8-hour average CO concentrations were estimated by multiplying the predicted 1-hour average CO concentrations by a factor of 0.70 to account for persistence of meteorological conditions and fluctuations in traffic volumes. A surface roughness of 1.27 meters was chosen, and a 43° Fahrenheit ambient temperature was assumed for the emissions computations, based on guidance provided in the *CEQR Technical Manual*. At each receptor location, the wind angle that maximized the pollutant concentrations was used in the analysis regardless of frequency of occurrence. These assumptions ensured that worst-case meteorology was used to estimate impacts.

Analysis Years

The microscale analyses were performed for existing conditions an interim Build year of 2016, and 2036, the year for full implementation of the park. The future analysis was performed both without the proposed project (the No Build condition) and with the proposed project (the Build condition).

Vehicle Emissions Data

Vehicular CO emission factors were computed using the EPA mobile source emissions model, MOBILE6.2. This emissions model is capable of calculating engine emission factors for various vehicle types, based on the fuel type (gasoline, diesel, or natural gas), meteorological conditions, vehicle speeds, vehicle age, roadway types, number of starts per day, engine soak time, and various other factors that influence emissions, such as changes in fuel and tailpipe emission standards, and inspection maintenance programs. The inputs and use of MOBILE6.2 incorporates the most current guidance available from NYSDEC and DEP.

Appropriate credits were used to accurately reflect the New York State inspection and maintenance program, which requires inspections of automobiles and light trucks to determine if pollutant emissions from the vehicles' exhaust systems are below emission standards. Vehicles failing the emissions test must undergo maintenance and pass a repeat test to be registered in New York State.

Vehicle classification data were based on field studies conducted for the proposed project. The general categories of vehicle types for specific roadways were further categorized into subcategories based on their relative fleet-wide breakdown.

An ambient temperature of 43° F was used. The use of this temperature is recommended in the *CEQR Technical Manual* for the Borough of Queens and is consistent with current DEP guidance.

Traffic Data

Traffic data for the air quality analysis were derived from existing traffic counts, projected future growth in traffic, and other information developed as part of the traffic analysis for the proposed project (see Chapter 16, "Traffic and Parking"). Traffic data for the future without and with the proposed project were employed in the respective air quality modeling scenarios. The weekday evening (5 to 6 PM), weekend midday (1 to 2 PM) and weekend evening (4 to 5 PM) peak periods were analyzed. These time periods were selected for the mobile source analysis because they produce the maximum anticipated project-generated and future Build traffic and, therefore, have the greatest potential for significant air quality impacts.

Background Concentrations

Background concentrations are those pollutant levels not directly accounted for through the modeling analysis (which directly accounts for vehicle-generated emissions on the streets within 1,000 feet and line-of-sight of the receptor location). Background concentrations must be added to modeling results to obtain total pollutant concentrations at a study site. The highest background concentrations monitored at the nearest NYSDEC background monitoring station in the most recent three-year period were used. It was conservatively assumed that the maximum background concentrations occur on all days.

The 8-hour average CO background concentration used in this analysis was 2.4 ppm, which is based on the second-highest 8-hour measurements over the most recent 3-year period for which

complete monitoring data is available (2004–2006), using measurements obtained at the Perth Amboy monitoring station located in New Jersey. The 1-hour CO background employed in the analysis was 3.0 ppm.

Mobile Source Analysis Sites

Three intersection locations were selected for microscale analysis (see Table 18-2 and Figure 18-1). These intersections were selected because they are the locations in the study area where the largest levels of project-generated traffic are expected and, therefore, where the maximum changes in the concentrations would be expected and where the highest potential for air quality impacts would occur. Each of these intersections was analyzed for CO.

**Table 18-2
Mobile Source Analysis Intersection Locations**

Receptor Site	Location
1	Richmond Avenue @ Richmond Hill Road
2	Richmond Avenue @ Forest Hill Road
3	Richmond Hill Road @ Forest Hill Road

Receptor Locations

Multiple receptors (i.e., precise locations at which concentrations are predicted) were modeled at each of the selected sites. Receptors were placed along the approach and departure links at spaced intervals. Local model receptors were placed at sidewalk or roadside locations near intersections with continuous public access and at residential locations.

MOBILE SOURCE AIR QUALITY SCREENING ANALYSIS

An assessment of the potential air quality effects of CO emissions that would result from vehicles coming to and departing from the proposed new interchanges along the West Shore Expressway within the proposed park was performed following the procedures outlined in the NYSDOT *EPM*. The study area includes six intersections for the CO microscale analysis. The screening procedure described below employed the traffic analysis results for the 2016 and 2036 analysis years.

CO Screening Criteria

Screening criteria described in the *EPM* were employed to determine whether the proposed project requires a detailed air quality analysis at the intersections in the study area. Before undertaking a detailed microscale modeling analysis of CO concentrations at the study area intersections, the screening criteria first determine whether the action would increase traffic volumes or implement any other changes (e.g., changes in speed, roadway width, sidewalk locations, or traffic signals) to the extent whereby significant increases in air pollutant concentrations could be expected. The following multi step procedure is suggested in the *EPM* to determine if there is the potential for CO impacts from the proposed project:

- **Level of Service (LOS) Screening:** If the Build condition LOS is A, B, or C, no air quality analysis is required. For intersections operating at LOS D or worse, proceed to Capture Criteria.

- **Capture Criteria:** If the Build condition LOS is at D, E, or F, then the following Capture Criteria should be applied at each intersection or corridor to determine if an air quality analysis may be warranted:
 - A 10 percent or more reduction in the distance between source and receptor (e.g., street or highway widening); or
 - a 10 percent or more increase in traffic volume on affected roadways for the Build year; or
 - a 10 percent or more increase in vehicle emissions for the Build year using emission factors provided in the *EPM*; or
 - any increase in the number of queued lanes for the Build year (this applies to intersections); it is not expected that intersections in the Build condition controlled by stop signs would require an air quality analysis; or
 - A 20 percent reduction in speed when Build average speeds are below 30 miles per hour (mph).

If the project does not meet any of the above criteria, a microscale analysis is not required. If the project is located within a half mile of any intersections evaluated in the CO SIP Attainment Demonstration, (as identified in the NYSDOT *EPM*'s Chapter 1.1, Table 2 by county), more stringent screening criteria are applied at project-affected intersections. Should any one of the above criteria be met in addition to the LOS screening, then a Volume Threshold Screening is performed, using traffic volume and emission factor data to compare with specific volume thresholds established in the *EPM*.

Both the Capture Criteria and Volume Threshold Screening were developed by the NYSDOT to be very conservative air quality estimates based on worst-case assumptions. The *EPM* states that if the project-related traffic volumes are below the volume threshold criteria, then a microscale air quality analysis is unnecessary even if the other Capture Criteria are met for a location with LOS D or worse, since a violation of the NAAQS would be extremely unlikely.

MOBILE SOURCE AIR QUALITY SCREENING RESULTS

The area roadway intersections were reviewed based on NYSDOT's *EPM* criteria for determining locations that may warrant a CO microscale air quality analysis. The screening analysis examined the LOS and projected volume increases by intersection approach. As described below, the results of the screening analysis show that none of the intersections affected by the project would require a detailed microscale air quality analysis.

LOS Screening Analysis

Results of the traffic capacity analysis performed for the 2016 and 2036 Build year condition were reviewed for the weekday PM and weekend Midday/PM peak periods at each of the study area intersections to determine the potential need for a microscale air quality analysis. The LOS screening criteria were first applied to identify those intersections with approach LOS D or worse, which would result in positive traffic diversions resulting from the new interchanges along the West Shore Expressway. Based on the review of those intersections analyzed, the following intersections were projected to operate at a LOS D or worse on approaches for the weekday PM and/or weekend Midday/PM peak traffic periods:

- Victory Boulevard and the Route 440 Southbound Ramp
- Victory Boulevard and the Route 440 Northbound Ramp (2036 only)

- Muldoon Avenue and the Route 440 Southbound Service Road
- Arden Avenue and the Route 440 Southbound Service Road
- Richmond Hill Road and Forest Hill Road

Capture Criteria Screening Analysis

Further screening on the intersections identified in the LOS Screening Analysis was conducted using the Capture Criteria outlined above. This screening indicated that for three of the above five intersections, one of the listed Capture Criteria would be met for at least one of the project's Build years: a 10 percent or more increase in traffic volume on affected roadways for the Build year. Therefore, a volume threshold screening analysis was conducted for the following three intersections:

- Victory Boulevard and the Route 440 Southbound Ramp (2036 only)
- Arden Avenue and the Route 440 Southbound Service Road
- Richmond Hill Road and Forest Hill Road

Volume Threshold Screening

Since one of the capture criteria listed above was triggered, a volume threshold screening analysis was conducted to further determine the need for a microscale air quality analysis. The volume thresholds (provided in the *EPM*) establish traffic volumes below which a violation of the NAAQs for CO is extremely unlikely. This approach uses project area specific emissions data to determine corresponding vehicle thresholds. For intersections where approach volumes are equal to or less than the applicable thresholds, microscale air quality analysis is not required. Based on the volume threshold screening, the project-related traffic volumes at each of the intersections would be below the volume threshold criteria. Therefore, a detailed CO microscale air quality analysis was not required based on the *EPM* screening criteria at these intersections.

STATIONARY SOURCES

PROPOSED PARK

The proposed park would result in a number of new structures, including visitor centers, education centers, comfort stations, restaurants and cafés, a banquet hall, exhibition center, greenhouse, etc. A screening analysis was performed to assess air quality impacts associated with emissions from the HVAC systems of the proposed park. The methodology described in the *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual* was used for the analysis. The *CEQR* methodology determines the threshold of development size below which the action would not have a significant adverse impact. The screening procedures use information regarding the type of fuel to be burned, the maximum development size, and the HVAC exhaust stack height to evaluate whether a significant adverse impact is likely. Based on the distance from the development to the nearest building of similar or greater height, if the maximum development size is greater than the threshold size in the *CEQR Technical Manual*, there is the potential for significant air quality impacts, and a refined dispersion modeling analysis is required. Otherwise, the source passes the screening analysis, and no further analysis is required.

EXISTING SOURCES

As discussed earlier, existing stationary sources on or near the project site include a DSNY solid waste transfer station and landfill gas collection and venting systems. Existing sources of sources of emissions from HVAC and air toxics sources are discussed and analyzed in Chapter 21, “Public Health”.

E. EXISTING CONDITIONS

EXISTING MONITORED AIR QUALITY CONDITIONS

Monitored background concentrations of SO₂, NO₂, CO, ozone, lead, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} for the study area are shown in Table 18-3. These values are the most recent monitored data that have been made available by NYSDEC and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). NJDEP sites were selected in cases where recent data at nearby sites in New York City were not available, and are representative of conditions in upwind urbanized areas and are therefore considered conservative indicators of background conditions within and near the proposed park. In the case of the 8-hour ozone and 24-hour PM_{2.5}, concentrations reflect the most recent three years of data, consistent with the basis for these standards. There were no monitored violations of NAAQS at these monitoring sites, with the exception of the maximum 8-hour ozone concentration, and the maximum 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentration, which is above the recently revised NAAQS. For modeling purposes, the analysis utilized the maximum values over the most recent three-year period.

Table 18-3
Representative Monitored Ambient Air Quality Data

Pollutants	Location	Units	Period	Concentration	Exceeds Federal Standard?	
					Primary	Secondary
CO	Perth Amboy, NJ	ppm	8-hour	2.4	N	N
			1-hour	3.0	N	N
SO ₂	Perth Amboy, NJ	µg/m ³	Annual	16	N	-
			24-hour	58	N	-
			3-hour	117	-	N
Respirable particulates (PM ₁₀)	PS 59, Manhattan	µg/m ³	Annual	23	N	N
			24-hour	60	N	N
Respirable particulates (PM _{2.5})	Port Richmond, SI	µg/m ³	Annual	12.1	N	N
			24-hour	36.9	Y ⁽²⁾	Y ⁽²⁾
NO ₂	Elizabeth Lab, NJ	µg/m ³	Annual	60	N	N
Lead	JHS 126, Brooklyn	µg/m ³	3-month	0.02	N	-
Ozone (O ₃)	Susan Wagner, SI	ppm	1-hour	0.114 ⁽¹⁾	-	-
			8-hour	0.094	Y	Y

Notes:
¹ The 1-hour ozone NAAQS has been replaced with the 8-hour standard; however, the maximum monitored concentration is provided for informational purposes.
² The maximum concentration exceeds the recently revised NAAQS.
Source: NYSDEC, 2006 New York State Ambient Air Quality Data; NJDEP, 2005 Air Quality Report.

PREDICTED CO CONCENTRATIONS IN THE STUDY AREA

As noted previously, receptors were placed at multiple sidewalk locations next to the intersections under analysis. The receptor with the highest predicted CO concentrations was used to represent these intersection sites for the existing conditions. CO concentrations were calculated for each receptor location, at each intersection, for each peak period specified above.

Table 18-4 shows the maximum predicted existing (2007) CO 8-hour average concentrations at the receptor sites. (No 1-hour values are shown, since predicted values are much lower than the 1-hour standard of 35 ppm.) At all receptor sites, the maximum predicted 8-hour average concentrations are well below the national standard of 9 ppm.

Table 18-4
Maximum Predicted Existing 8-Hour Average
Carbon Monoxide Concentrations for 2007

Receptor Site	Location	Time Period	8-Hour Concentration (ppm)
1	Richmond Avenue @ Richmond Hill Road	Weekday PM	5.6
2	Richmond Avenue @ Forest Hill Road	Weekday PM	5.7
3	Richmond Hill Road @ Forest Hill Road	Weekday PM	4.2
Note: 8-hour standard is 9 ppm.			

F. THE FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT: 2016 AND 2036

MOBILE SOURCES ANALYSIS

2016 NO BUILD ANALYSIS

CO concentrations without the proposed project were determined for the 2016 build year using the methodology previously described. Table 18-5 shows future maximum predicted 8-hour average CO concentrations at the analysis intersections without the proposed project (i.e., No Build values). The values shown are the highest predicted concentrations for the receptor locations for any of the time periods analyzed. As shown in Table 18-5, No Build values are predicted to be well below the 8-hour CO standard of 9 ppm.

Table 18-5
Future (2016) Maximum Predicted 8-Hour Average
No Build Carbon Monoxide Concentrations

Receptor Site	Location	Time Period	8-Hour Concentration (ppm)
1	Richmond Avenue @ Richmond Hill Road	Weekday PM	5.2
2	Richmond Avenue @ Forest Hill Road	Weekend MD	5.2
3	Richmond Hill Road @ Forest Hill Road	Weekday PM	4.7
Note: 8-hour standard is 9 ppm.			

2036 NO BUILD ANALYSIS

CO concentrations without the proposed project were determined for the 2036 build year using the methodology previously described. Table 18-6 shows future maximum predicted 8-hour average CO concentrations at the analysis intersections without the proposed project (i.e., No Build values). The values shown are the highest predicted concentrations for the receptor locations for any of the time periods analyzed. As shown in Table 18-6, No Build values are predicted to be well below the 8-hour CO standard of 9 ppm .

**Table 18-6
Future (2036) Maximum Predicted 8-Hour Average
No Build Carbon Monoxide Concentrations**

Receptor Site	Location	Time Period	8-Hour Concentration (ppm)
1	Richmond Avenue @ Richmond Hill Road	Weekend MD	5.5
2	Richmond Avenue @ Forest Hill Road	Weekday PM	5.7
3	Richmond Hill Road @ Forest Hill Road	Weekend MD	4.8
Note: 8-hour standard is 9 ppm.			

STATIONARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

No development within the project site would occur in the future without the proposed project. HVAC emissions in the No Build condition would likely be similar to existing conditions. Consequently, air quality as affected by local sources of emissions is expected to be similar to existing conditions.

G. PROBABLE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: 2016 AND 2036

The proposed project would result in increased mobile source emissions in the immediate vicinity of the project site and rezoning area. This section describes the results of the studies performed to analyze the potential impacts on the surrounding community from these sources. The areas of concern are discussed below.

MOBILE SOURCES ANALYSIS

2016 BUILD ANALYSIS

CO concentrations with the proposed project were determined for the 2016 Build condition at traffic intersections using the methodology previously described. Table 18-7 shows the future maximum predicted 8-hour average CO concentration with the proposed project at the three intersections studied. (No 1-hour values are shown, since no exceedances of the NAAQS would occur and the *de minimis* criteria are only applicable to 8-hour concentrations; therefore, the 8-hour values are the most critical for impact assessment.) The values shown are the highest predicted concentration for any of the time periods analyzed.

The results indicate that the proposed project would not result in any violations of the 8-hour CO standard. In addition, the incremental increases in 8-hour average CO concentrations would be

very small and, consequently, would not result in a violation of the CEQR *de minimis* CO criteria. (The *de minimis* criteria were previously described in Section D. of this chapter.) Therefore, the proposed project would not result in any significant adverse CO air quality impacts.

**Table 18-7
Future (2016) Maximum Predicted 8-Hour Average
No Build and Build Carbon Monoxide Concentrations**

Receptor Site	Location	Time Period	8-Hour Concentration (ppm)	
			No Build	Build
1	Richmond Avenue @ Richmond Hill Road	Weekday PM	5.2	5.1
2	Richmond Avenue @ Forest Hill Road	Weekday PM	5.1	6.2
3	Richmond Hill Road @ Forest Hill Road	Weekend MD	4.3	4.8
Note: 8-hour standard is 9 ppm.				

2036 BUILD ANALYSIS

CO concentrations with the proposed project were determined for the 2036 Build condition at traffic intersections using the methodology previously described. Table 18-8 shows the future maximum predicted 8-hour average CO concentration with the proposed project at the three intersections studied. (No 1-hour values are shown, since no exceedances of the NAAQS would occur and the *de minimis* criteria are only applicable to 8-hour concentrations; therefore, the 8-hour values are the most critical for impact assessment.) The values shown are the highest predicted concentration for any of the time periods analyzed.

The results indicate that the proposed project would not result in any violations of the 8-hour CO standard. In addition, the incremental increases in 8-hour average CO concentrations would be very small and, consequently, would not result in a violation of the CEQR *de minimis* CO criteria. (The *de minimis* criteria were previously described in Section D. of this chapter.) Therefore, the proposed project would not result in any significant adverse CO air quality impacts.

**Table 18-8
Future (2036) Maximum Predicted 8-Hour Average
No Build and Build Carbon Monoxide Concentrations**

Receptor Site	Location	Time Period	8-Hour Concentration (ppm)	
			No Build	Build
1	Richmond Avenue @ Richmond Hill Road	Weekend MD	5.5	6.0
2	Richmond Avenue @ Forest Hill Road	Weekday PM	5.7	6.6
3	Richmond Hill Road @ Forest Hill Road	Weekend MD	4.8	5.0
Note: 8-hour standard is 9 ppm.				

MESOSCALE ANALYSIS

The proposed project would result in new connections to the West Shore Expressway, including extension of service roads. An analysis is required to quantify the net change in regional emissions of NO_x, CO and VOCs. Initial pollutant burdens were based on the expected emissions from the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) that would occur in the absence of the new interchanges along the West Shore Expressway within the proposed park. These were compared to the build pollutant burdens predicted from the traffic study. The results of the analysis indicated a slight increase in emissions (less than 5 percent) for each of the analyzed pollutants as compared to the no build condition. According to the NYSDOT *EPM*, projects with a VMT difference of 10 percent or more are considered to have a potential significant impact on regional emissions. The mesoscale analysis is conservative since it does not take into account vehicle emissions due to idling. The proposed new connections to the West Shore Expressway are expected to reduce traffic burdens on existing signalized local roads, which will reduce idling at intersections. Nevertheless, the slight increase in emissions from the proposed project is not considered to be regionally significant.

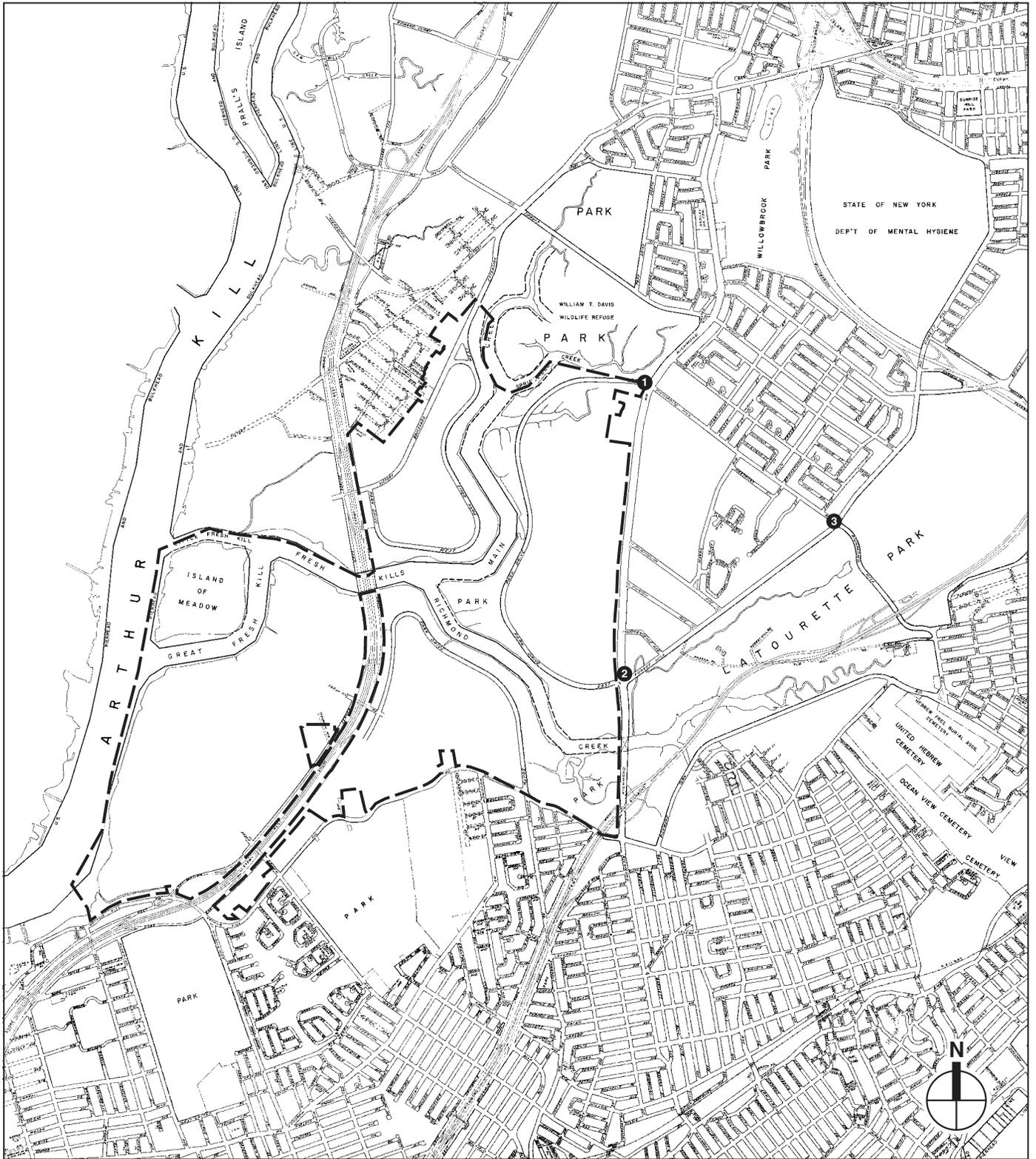
STATIONARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

As discussed further in Chapter 21, “Public Health,” Fresh Kills Landfill has a Title V air permit that may need to be modified to construct the park; however, no new emissions from the landfill are anticipated. The primary stationary source of air pollutants associated with the proposed project would be emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels by HVAC equipment. The primary pollutant of concern when burning fuel oil is SO₂, and when burning natural gas is NO₂. The proposed project would result in the construction of a number of structures throughout the proposed park. Although the fuel type is unknown at this time, the use of natural gas is considered impractical at many locations due to the lack of existing infrastructure within the landfill; therefore, all structures were conservatively assumed to utilize No. 4 oil.

The proposed structures would be located within the proposed park and would be at least 200 feet from any off-site sensitive use, such as residences. The proposed structures would be largely one story in height. Using Figure 3Q-6 of the *CEQR Technical Manual*, no individual structure would result in any potential significant adverse air quality impact, since the maximum permitted size is much greater than the size of the proposed park structures. In fact, assuming a minimum distance of 200 feet and the combined development size of the proposed structures, no significant adverse air quality impact is predicted. Therefore, no significant impacts are predicted from the proposed project’s stationary sources of emissions.

CONCLUSIONS

The analyses conclude that the proposed project would not result in any significant adverse air quality impacts on sensitive uses in the surrounding community. The maximum predicted pollutant concentrations and concentration increments from mobile sources with the proposed project would be below the corresponding air quality impact criteria. A stationary source screening analysis determined that there would be no potential significant adverse air quality impacts from the proposed park’s heating, ventilation, and air conditioning HVAC systems. *



-  Project Site
-  Air Quality Receptor Locations

0 1000 FEET
SCALE