

Chapter 19 : PUBLIC HEALTH

A. INTRODUCTION

The City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual defines as its goal with respect to public health “to determine whether adverse impacts on public health may occur as a result of a proposed project, and if so, to identify measures to mitigate such effects.”

According to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, for most proposed projects, a public health analysis is not necessary. Where no significant unmitigated adverse impact is found in other *CEQR* analysis areas, such as air quality, water quality, hazardous materials, or noise, no public health analysis is warranted. If, however, an unmitigated significant adverse impact is identified in one of these analysis areas, the lead agency may determine that a public health assessment is warranted for that specific technical area.

B. PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS

The Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts on public health. As described in preceding chapters of this Environmental Impact Statement, the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts in air quality, water quality, and noise due to noise generated by any potential development. The Proposed Action would potentially result in significant adverse impacts on hazardous materials and noise due to train operations on elevated tracks; therefore, screening analysis was conducted. The screening analysis concluded that while, the Proposed Action has the potential result in unmitigated adverse impacts in hazardous materials due to potential for additional in-ground disturbance, and noise due to train operation on elevated tracks; the potential for these impacts to occur is expected to be limited to significantly affect public health. Therefore, no further analysis is warranted.

C. SCREENING ANALYSIS

Hazardous Materials

While the Proposed Action would potentially result in significant adverse hazardous materials impacts due to the potential for additional in-ground disturbance, as presented in *Chapter 11, “Hazardous Materials,”* the extent of this potential impact is expected to be limited. Because, the Proposed Action itself would not induce development on sites where development would not have otherwise been possible (with the exception of one component allowing as-of-right development over certain existing parking lots for affordable senior housing which is discussed below). If development were to occur in potentially contaminated areas, depending on a variety of factors - such as the location of any in-ground hazardous materials on the site, the depth and location of building foundations, the extent and location of grading activities, impacts could occur. If development were to occur in areas with no potential hazardous materials contamination, there would be no potential for impacts. As described in detail in Chapter 1, Project Description, the Proposed Action, and Chapter 2, Analytical Framework, no areas are being rezoned under the Proposed Action, and no changes to allowable floor area ratio (FAR) are anticipated as part of this action, with the exception of Affordable Independent Residences for Seniors and Long-Term Care Facilities in certain districts. Across the city, the Proposed Action is only expected to induce new development or affect the overall amount or type of development in a neighborhood on a very limited basis. As described, the potential for additional in-ground disturbance is very limited and that it is expected that any potential impacts would not be sufficiently large or widespread to raise the potential for significant adverse public health impacts.

Noise

While the Proposed Action would not result in any significant adverse noise impacts due to vehicular operations, it would potentially result in adverse impacts due to train operations on elevated tracks or similar infrastructure. Despite the noise increment that may be generated by placing noise sensitive receptor closer to an elevated train track or similar infrastructure, the potential for a significant adverse noise impact is unlikely, as described in Chapter 18, Noise. Further, according to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, noise thresholds are based on quality of life considerations and not on public health considerations.

Therefore, the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts on public health, and a detailed public health assessment is not warranted.