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# Western Rail Yard Infrastructure Project

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

*Prepared by:*

**US Department of Transportation –  
Federal Railroad Administration**

### Submitted Pursuant To:

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) and the Council on Environmental Quality Implementing Regulations for NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508); Department of Transportation Environmental Impact and Related Procedures (23 CFR Part 771) Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decision making (23 U.S.C. § 139); Section 4(f) of the United States Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. § 303) and FRA's implementing regulations at 23 CFR part 774; Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 306101); the Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.); the Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. § 1251-1387); and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. § 1531-1544).



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Associate Administrator for Railroad Policy and Development  
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June 1, 2021  
Date of Approval

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The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Western Rail Yard Infrastructure Project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and other applicable environmental laws. The Project is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

WRY Tenant LLC and Amtrak have partnered in a Joint Venture to apply for Federal financial assistance for the construction of a Platform and Tunnel Encasement at the Western Rail Yard site, located between West 30th and West 33rd Streets and Eleventh and Twelfth Avenues in Manhattan. The purpose of the Project is to cover and protect the active railroad tracks and LIRR support facilities in the Western Rail Yard that house critical railroad infrastructure; to preserve a right-of-way through the Western Rail Yard to support the future construction of a trans-Hudson passenger rail crossing into New York Penn Station; and to provide additional new capacity for real estate development.

This DEIS documents the evaluation of the reasonably foreseeable potential beneficial and adverse environmental impacts of implementing the Project, including a No Build Alternative and Preferred Alternative. FRA has also prepared a Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Western Rail Yard Infrastructure Project in compliance with Section 4(f) of the United States Department of Transportation Act of 1966.

FRA is seeking input from the public on the DEIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation which are being made available to the public in accordance with NEPA and NHPA, and are available at the Project website: <http://www.westernrailyardinfrastructure.com>.

For the most up to date information visit <http://www.westernrailyardinfrastructure.com>. If additional assistance is required to review the DEIS, please send an email to [wryproject@dot.gov](mailto:wryproject@dot.gov). DOT is committed to ensuring that information is available in appropriate alternative formats to meet the requirements of persons who have a disability. If you require an alternative version of files provided on this page, please contact the Section 508 Contact for FRA: Eric Lovett via email at [Erik.Lovett@dot.gov](mailto:Erik.Lovett@dot.gov), or (202) 400-0388.

The 45-day comment period will run from **June 11 to July 26, 2021**. You can comment by filling out a form directly at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), Docket Number: FRA-2020-0039 or via a link to the Docket at the Project's website. Send written comments by mail to the following address:

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WRYIP, c/o FHI Studio, 416 Asylum Street, Hartford, CT 06103. You can also leave comments via telephone at 929-229-5220. All comments will receive equal consideration and will be available at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

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**Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
And Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation**

**Addressing the Construction and Operation of  
the  
Western Rail Yard Infrastructure Project  
New York, New York**

**June 2021**



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

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