Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

81-644 - Special permit for transit improvements

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LAST AMENDED
10/7/2021

For #qualifying sites# located in the Grand Central Transit Improvement Zone Subarea, or the Other Transit Improvement Zone Subarea, as shown on Map 2 (East Midtown Subdistrict and Subareas) in Appendix A of this Chapter, the City Planning Commission may permit a #floor area# bonus in accordance with the provisions of this Section, where a major improvement to a subway or rail mass transit facility is provided in accordance with the conditions of paragraph (b). All applications for a special permit pursuant to this Section shall be subject to the application requirements, findings and additional requirements of paragraphs (c) through (e).

As a pre-condition to applying for such special permit, an applicant shall demonstrate that the maximum as-of-right #floor area ratio# for #qualifying sites# set forth in Row E of the table in Section 81-64 has been achieved prior to, or in conjunction with, the special permit application.

(a) #Floor area# bonus

The City Planning Commission may permit an increase in the amount of #floor area ratio# permitted on a #qualifying site#, up to the amount specified in Row F of the table in Section 81-64 (Special Floor Area Provisions for Qualifying Sites).

(b) Conditions

All applications shall include proposed on-site or off-site improvements to a proximate subway or rail mass transit facility, that shall be characteristic of current best practice in mass-transit network design.

All applications shall include accessibility or capacity-enhancing improvements, including, but not limited to, the provision of elevators and escalators, widening, straightening, expanding or otherwise enhancing the existing pedestrian circulation network, or reconfiguring circulation routes to provide more direct pedestrian connections to subway or rail mass transit facilities. Where improvements are proposed for a subway or rail mass transit facilities that is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accessibility improvements shall be prioritized.

In addition to accessibility or capacity-enhancing improvements, environmental design or resiliency improvements may also be provided, including but not limited to, daylight access, retail #uses#, enhancements to noise abatement, air quality, lighting, finishes, or rider orientation in new or existing passageways, or flood resiliency upgrades.

All proposed improvements shall be subject to the approval of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the City Planning Commission.

(c) Application requirements

All applications for a special permit pursuant to this Section shall include the following:

(1) Prior to submitting an application for a special permit pursuant to this Section, the applicant shall submit a schematic or concept plan for the proposed improvement to the MTA and the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission. Such schematic or concept plan shall include such materials and information sufficient to provide the basis for the #transit agencies# to evaluate and determine the constructability of such proposed improvement.

(2) At the time of certification, the Commission shall be provided with the following application materials:

(i) a letter from the MTA containing a conceptual approval of the improvement, including a statement of any considerations regarding the construction and operation of the improvement;

(ii) all information and justification sufficient to provide the Commission with the basis for evaluating the benefits of such improvements to the general public; and

(iii) initial plans for the maintenance of the proposed improvements.

(d) Findings

In order to grant such special permit, the Commission shall find that:

(1) the public benefit derived from the improvements to a subway or rail mass transit facility merits the amount of additional#floor area#being granted to the proposed #development# pursuant to this special permit;

(2) for accessibility or capacity-enhancing improvements, newly created or expanded accessible routes for persons with physical disabilities, or measures to improve station ingress and egress routes or platform capacity, such improvements will constitute significant enhancements to connectivity from the pedestrian circulation network to and through the subway or rail mass transit facility; and

(3) where environmental design or resiliency improvements are provided in addition to accessibility or capacity-enhancing improvements, such improvements will constitute

significant enhancements to the station environment or its function.

(e) Additional requirements

In addition to the application requirements of paragraph (c) of this Section, additional requirements set forth in this paragraph shall apply.

(1) Prior to the granting of a special permit pursuant to this Section, the following requirements shall be met:

(i) To the extent required by the MTA, the applicant shall execute an agreement, setting forth the obligations of the owner, its successors and assigns, to establish a process for design development and a preliminary construction schedule for the proposed improvement; construct the proposed improvement; establish a program for maintenance and capital maintenance; and establish that such improvements shall be accessible to the public during the hours of operation of the station or as otherwise approved by the MTA. Where the MTA deems necessary, such executed agreement shall set forth obligations of the applicant to provide a performance bond or other security for completion of the improvement in a form acceptable to the MTA; and

(ii) The City Planning Commission shall be provided with a final letter of approval from the MTA stating that the drawings and other documents submitted by the applicant have been determined by the MTA to be of sufficient scope and detail to fix and describe the size and character of the improvement as to architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical systems, materials, relationship to existing site conditions and such other conditions as may be appropriate, and that the construction of the improvement in accordance with such submission is feasible.

(2) Prior to obtaining a foundation permit or building permit from the Department of Buildings, a written declaration of restrictions, in a form acceptable to the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission, containing complete drawings of the improvement and setting forth the obligations of the owner as agreed upon with the MTA pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (e)(1) of this Section, shall be recorded against such property in the Borough Office of the City Register of the City of New York. Proof of recordation of the declaration of restrictions shall be submitted in a form acceptable to the Department of City Planning.

(3) No temporary certificate of occupancy shall be granted by the Department of Buildings for the portion of the #building# utilizing bonus #floor area# granted pursuant to the provisions of this Section until the required improvements have been substantially completed, as determined by the Chairperson, acting in consultation with the MTA, where applicable, and such improvements are usable by the public. Such portion of the #building# utilizing bonus #floor area# shall be designated by the Commission in drawings included in the declaration of restrictions filed pursuant to this paragraph.

No permanent certificate of occupancy shall be granted by the Department of Buildings for the portion of the #building# utilizing bonus #floor area# until all improvements have been completed in accordance with the approved plans, as determined by the Chairperson, acting in consultation with the MTA, where applicable.

The Commission may prescribe additional appropriate conditions and safeguards to enhance the character of the surrounding area.