



Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Eric Adams, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Daniel R. Garodnick, Chair

42-46 - Air Space Over a Railroad or Transit Right-of-way or Yard

File generated by <https://zr.planning.nyc.gov> on 6/12/2024

42-46 - Air Space Over a Railroad or Transit Right-of-way or Yard

LAST AMENDED
2/22/1990

42-461 - Definitions

LAST AMENDED
11/19/1987

Words in italics are defined in Section [12-10](#) or, if applicable exclusively to this Chapter, in this Section.

42-462 - Use of railroad or transit air space

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

M1 M2 M3

- (a) In all districts, as indicated, *railroad or transit air space* may be *developed* or used only for a permitted *use* *accessory* to the railroad or transit right-of-way or yard, a *use* permitted by the City Planning Commission as set forth in Section [74-681](#) (Development within or over a railroad or transit right-of-way or yard), a railroad passenger station permitted by the City Planning Commission as set forth in Section [74-62](#) (Railroad Passenger Stations) or an open vehicle storage establishment authorized pursuant to this Section unless the right-of-way or yard or portion thereof is no longer required for railroad or transit *use* as set forth in paragraph (b) of this Section.

If any *building* or other structure constructed in such *railroad or transit air space* in accordance with the provisions of Section [74-681](#) is *enlarged* or replaced by a new *building* or other structure, the provisions of this Section shall apply to such *enlargement* or replacement.

However, any *use* legally established in such *railroad or transit air space* in accordance with the provisions of Section [74-681](#) may be changed to another *use* listed in a permitted Use Group, and no special permit from the Commission shall be required for such change of *use*.

Any *building* or other structure within or over a railroad or transit right-of-way or yard, which *building* or other structure was completed prior to September 27, 1962, or constructed in accordance with the applicable provisions of Sections [11-31](#) to [11-34](#), inclusive, prior to December 5, 1991, may be *enlarged* or replaced in accordance with the applicable district regulations without any requirement for a special permit from the Commission. Ownership of rights permitting the *enlargement* or replacement of such a *building* or other structure shall be deemed to be equivalent to ownership of a *zoning lot* or portion thereof, provided that such *enlargement* or replacement will be on one *block* and the rights are in single ownership and recorded prior to February 22, 1990. Such ownership of rights shall be deemed to include alternative ownership arrangements specified in the *zoning lot* definition of Section [12-10](#) (DEFINITIONS).

Enlargement or replacement utilizing these ownership rights shall be deemed to be constructed upon the equivalent of a *zoning lot*.

- (b) When the *use* of a railroad or transit right-of-way or yard, or portion thereof, has been permanently discontinued or terminated and a *large-scale development* requiring one or more special permits is proposed, no *use* or

#development# of the property shall be allowed until the Commission has authorized the size and configuration of all #zoning lots# created on such property. As a condition for such authorization, the Commission shall find that:

- (1) the proposed #zoning lots#, indicated by a map describing the boundaries of, and the total area of, each lot, are not excessively large, elongated or irregular in shape and that no #development# on any #zoning lot# would result in the potential for an excessive concentration of #bulk# that would be incompatible with allowable #developments# on adjoining property; and
- (2) each resulting #zoning lot# has direct access to one or more #streets#.

No subsequent alteration in size or configuration of any #zoning lot# approved by the Commission shall be permitted unless authorized by the Commission. The Commission may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects of such #zoning lot# designation on the character of the surrounding area. Such conditions shall be set forth in a written Declaration of Restrictions covering all tracts of land or in separate written Declarations of Restrictions covering parts of such tracts of land and which in the aggregate cover the entire tract of land comprising the #zoning lot# and which is executed and recorded as specified in the definition of #zoning lot# in Section [12-10](#).

Prior to granting any #zoning lot# authorization relating to such right-of-way or yard, the Commission shall request the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Departments of Transportation of the State of New York and the City of New York to indicate within 30 days whether said agencies have any plan to use such property or portion thereof for a railroad or transit #use#.

- (c) In an M1-1 District, on the #block# bounded by Vanderbilt Avenue, Atlantic Avenue, Carlton Avenue and Pacific Street in the Borough of Brooklyn, the Commission may authorize the #use# of #railroad or transit air space# for an open vehicle storage establishment provided the Commission makes the following findings:
 - (1) that adequate access to one or more #streets# is provided;
 - (2) that access to such #use# is located on a #street# not less than 60 feet in width;
 - (3) that the proposed open vehicle storage establishment will result in reducing the number of vehicles standing on nearby #streets#; and
 - (4) that such establishment is located not less than 20 feet below #curb level# except for access ramps to the #street# or #streets#.

For the purpose of this authorization a secondary access ramp may be permitted provided that the intersection of such ramp and the #street# shall be no more than two #blocks# from the intersection of the primary access ramp and a #street#.

The Commission may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize any adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area, including requirements for the shielding of flood lights, screening, and surfacing of all access ramps or driveways.

- (d) Notwithstanding the above, the #High Line#, as defined in Section [98-01](#), shall be governed by the provisions of Section [98-16](#) (Air Space Over a Railroad or Transit Right-of-way or Yard).