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CIVIC ALLIANCE CALLS FOR A STUDY OF A RANGE OF PROGRAMMATIC ALTERNATIVES AT WTC SITE

Coalition submits comments on draft scope of GEIS for WTC Memorial and Redevelopment Plan

For Immediate Release

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NEW YORK – The Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York today submitted its comments on the draft scope for the WTC Memorial and Redevelopment Plan Generic Environmental Impact Statement, calling for a study of a greater range of programmatic alternatives. The comments submitted by the Alliance noted that the current document does not guarantee an analysis of an option with less office and retail space, as called for by the public at last summer’s *Listening to the City* public forums.

“Recent developments regarding both the design and program for the site provide reason to be optimistic that the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site will transform downtown for the better,” said Robert D. Yaro, chair of the Civic Alliance and President of Regional Plan Association, in reference to the hiring of Santiago Calatrava to design the PATH station, agreements on the position of the Freedom Tower and use of the Deutsche Bank site to move some commercial development off of the 16 acres. “Given how quickly things can change in the rebuilding process, though, the Civic Alliance will be watching the environmental review process very closely to ensure that a full range of alternatives are studied, as is required by law.”

Key points from the Alliance’s comments on the GEIS include the following:

- Study a greater range of programmatic alternatives, including a new “reduced office alternative” with half the amount of commercial office and retail space, an “enhanced green alternative” and a “truckless goods delivery and waste removal alternative.”
- Provide assurance that the proposed action is indeed supported by the Port Authority, including any documentation of an agreement between parties in support of this action.
- Closely analyze the interaction between the proposed action and other related projects in Lower Manhattan, such as West Street, the permanent PATH station and other transportation projects.

- Provide a fiscal and cost analysis as part of the EIS process that takes into account public financing and expected rates of return.
- Express specific goals for high standards of environmental sustainability and use of Universal Design for access by people of all ages and physical abilities.
- When studying environmental and other impacts, the baseline should be the current conditions, in addition to the pre-September 11 conditions.

The Civic Alliance's comments were drafted by the Alliance's Regulatory Working Group, and approved by the full membership at the general meeting on July 30. The full comments are available on request, and will be on the Alliance website later this week.

The Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York is a coalition of civic, labor, business, academic and community groups convened in October 2001 to provide a civic voice in rebuilding plans for Lower Manhattan in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. The Alliance was convened by Regional Plan Association in partnership with the New School University, Pratt Institute and New York University.

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