

## **WHY ELEVATORS ARE NEEDED AT THE 125<sup>TH</sup> STATION OF THE #1 TRAIN**

### **Escalators Are Not Enough**

In December 2021, the MTA began a project to replace at least one of the escalators at the 125<sup>th</sup> Street station. This project is long overdue but even when the escalators are working, they are not readily accessible to many seniors, people who need the support of a cane or walker or people with strollers. As the escalators only reach the station's mezzanine, travelers must still use the stairs to get to and from the train platforms, as shown in the accompanying photo. This leaves the station not at all accessible to wheelchair users. To serve both present and future transit riders the station needs modern elevators. There are currently no fully accessible stations along the #1 train line from 96th Street to 231st Street. The nearby Morningside Gardens and NYCHA housing complexes have hundreds of residents 65 years of age or older.

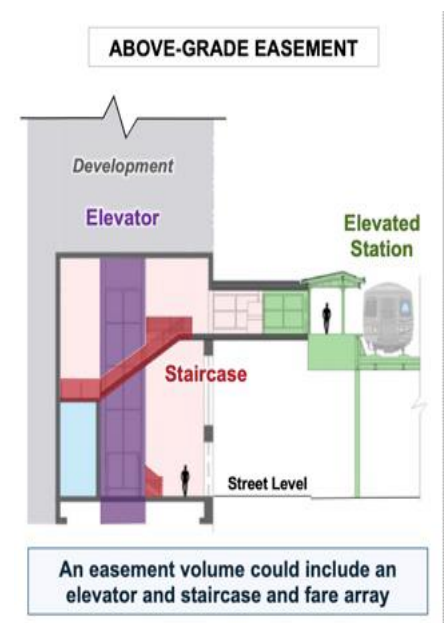
### **Enormous Growth in the Surrounding Neighborhood**



The tremendous, institutional, residential, and commercial growth in the surrounding neighborhood will require full access to the 125<sup>th</sup> Street station. When Columbia University finishes its 17-acre, 6.8 million square foot Manhattanville Campus by the end of the decade 6,000 people will regularly work there. Thousands more will come to the Campus each day as students and visitors. Other new commercial buildings will add hundreds of thousands of square feet of space, bringing more workers to the area. New apartment buildings adjacent to the two seminaries on Broadway, Columbia University's tower at 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and prospective new housing adjacent to Riverside Church, will put many additional residents and transit riders within reach of the station.

### **Good News: MTA and Columbia Negotiating A Plan**

A recent amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance - [Zoning for Transit Accessibility](#) - requires developers of sites adjacent to transit stations to consult with the MTA to determine whether it needs an easement to install elevators at the station in return for a *zoning bonus*. The new Columbia tower near completion at the 125<sup>th</sup> Street station [on the southwest](#) corner could have possibly qualified for this review. (See sample illustration) But here's the good news -- the MTA and Columbia are negotiating a *public/private partnership*. Columbia has already provided the MTA with preliminary designs for a free-standing street-to-mezzanine level elevator. The MTA would provide elevators from the mezzanine level for both the uptown and downtown platforms funded primarily by congestion pricing program revenue. With ongoing support from our elected officials, the Elevator Lobby will continue to bring the key parties and our community stakeholders together as negotiations progress.



***THE ELEVATOR LOBBY:*** *Morningside Heights Community Coalition* ([MHCCNYC.ORG](http://MHCCNYC.ORG)) and *Morningside Retirement and Health Services* ([MRHSNY.ORG](http://MRHSNY.ORG)). January 2025