



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

CityBridge/Boldyn 5G Network Towers

SITE NAME: MN-07-120527_A

ADDRESS: 741 Columbus Avenue aka 65 - 75 West 96th Street; 72-76 West 97th Street

COMMUNITY DISTRICT: Manhattan CD7, CM Shaun Abreu

COMMENT:

The proposed site for a Link5G tower on Columbus Avenue between West 96th and West 97th Streets has the potential to have an adverse impact on the surrounding City Landmarks and SHPO eligible districts and buildings:

- Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District - LPC Historic District
- 46-48 West 96th Street - The Baldwin Flats - SHPO Eligible Buildings
- 44 West 96th Street (Apt, non-contributing) - SHPO Eligible Buildings
- 42 West 96th Street (Rowhouse, 5 of 5) - SHPO Eligible Building
- Central Park - NYC Scenic Landmark & National Historic Landmark

RE: Balloon Mock-up Test

Previous comments submitted by Consulting Parties, including LANDMARK WEST!, stressed that the proposed Link5G structure will be within an APE of historic properties and clearly visible from historic properties, namely Central Park.

In January, 2024, NYSHPO concurred with EBI's determination of No Adverse Effect for this site, despite initial concerns over its visibility from Central Park. Consulting Party comments then raised concerns about the effectiveness of the viewshed map EBI produced, backing up their claim that the proposed tower site would not be visible from Central Park.

This viewshed did not account for the deciduous nature of the trees surrounding the proposed tower site, and along West 97th Street towards Central Park, and therefore did not produce an accurate viewshed from the proposed tower site to Central Park.

NYSHPO subsequently asked EBI to produce a mock up in the form of a 'Balloon Test'. They outsourced the mockup to Sigma Technologies who performed a 'Balloon Test' on February 21, 2024. Sigma Technologies set up four 18" diameter balloons, configured to the height (32ft) and width (approx 36") to imitate the appearance of the Link5G towers, and collected 19 views of the 'Balloon Test' in the area of the proposed tower site.

The view of the mockup, particularly views 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, and 14, shows that there are considerable views from Central Park of the mockup/proposed site. Views 8 and 9 are blocked by temporary scaffolding and there is potential for further views from Central Park if this temporary scaffolding was not there.

View 19 is not available to view in the presentation, and although this vantage point is not taken from a historic property, we believe this analysis is incomplete.

LW! challenges the definition of adverse effect employed by Boldyn/EBI. EBI notes the difference between the bright appearance of white balloons and an aluminum tower. We believe there is little difference in the brightness of white balloons and an aluminum tower. We would also like to stress that the real construction will not be the appearance of balloons floating in the air but a monumental 32 ft tall structure. This will be noticeable.

We also question the 500 ft radius of APE that is being employed by EBI/Boldyn when visibility of proposed towers can impact properties outside of this APE threshold - especially a 32 ft tower on a sidewalk.

LANDMARK WEST!

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LANDMARK WEST remains steadfast in our stance that these 32-ft tall structures are poorly designed and will further clutter the city's streetscapes. Their out-of-scale design will not only detract from historic areas and buildings in our neighborhood, but are also inappropriate for most commercial and residential areas of the city. We also believe that determining cumulative effect will not be wholly possible without seeing a manifest of the complete 5G rollout planned.