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'Confident' on No. 7

By MICHAEL HOWARD SAUL

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Wednesday he is "confident" the city can preserve the ability to build a second subway station as part of the extension of the No. 7 subway line in Manhattan, following aggressive lobbying from the real-estate industry and the City Council.

"We need engineers to confirm that it's viable, but we're confident we've found a way to keep the prospect of a future 10th Avenue station alive without delaying the current extension," he said in a statement.

The city, which agreed to pay for the extension for the cash-strapped Metropolitan Transportation Authority, is spending

\$2.1 billion to extend the No. 7 line from Times Square to 34th Street and 11th Avenue. The original plan was to build a second station at 10th Avenue and 41st Street but costs jumped.

The Bloomberg administration agreed to take a second look at the issue in the wake of intense lobbying from City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and the Real Estate Board of New York.

The administration had planned to announce this spring that it was officially closing the door on the possibility of a second station.

But officials said they've found a simple solution that preserves the option of building the second station, if funding develops in the future.