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City looking to add back second stop on No. 7 line extension

By Heather Haddon

The city will soon apply for a \$3 million federal grant that could pave the way for a subway station at 42nd Street and 10th Avenue along the No. 7 line extension, officials said Thursday.

The stop was part of the original plan for the \$2.1 billion project bringing subway service to 34th Street and 11th Avenue, but the city ditched it because of a lack of funds. Now, after lobbying from real estate interests, officials are trying to resuscitate the stop—although they still can't cover the \$550 million pricetag.

“The city is in no position to step in and pay for (it),” Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in a statement. “But we’re confident we’ve found a way to keep the prospect of a future Tenth Avenue station alive.”

The station would resemble many stops on the No. 1, where riders can't cross between the station's uptown and downtown sides. That's inconvenient for riders, and would force the city to add more elevators to make the station wheelchair accessible, transit advocates said.

“It's not an ideal solution,” said William Henderson, executive director of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA. “We could have avoided this if we had done something when we were actually digging the tunnels.”

The extension is on track to be completed by 2013, with the station taking five years to be built once the funding was secure, a city spokesman said.

A MTA spokesman said the agency supported the plan, and they will continue to work with the city to deliver the extension “on time and on budget.”