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100 YEARS

June 30, 2022

New York Building Congress Testimony at a hearing of the Empire State Development regarding the Pennsylvania Station Area Redevelopment Project's General Project Plan

The New York Building Congress strongly supports the reconstruction of Penn Station and the comprehensive revitalization of its surrounding community. New York deserves a true, modern, state-of-the-art transportation hub in the heart of our central business district that meets the same New York City standard of excellence seen just a few blocks away in Grand Central Terminal.

Reimagining Penn station and rebuilding it to serve New Yorkers and visitors alike, with soaring ceilings that bring in natural light, grand entrances that safely move people, and modern amenities are part of this vision — and must be done now.

This vital development will connect Herald Square to Penn Station with improved open spaces for the community, 1,800 much-needed housing units, and improved retail and dining spaces to provide residents, workers, and commuters with an improved public experience. This project is an essential step towards transforming Midtown Manhattan into a true 24/7 community.

The proposal doubles Penn Station's circulation space. It is in the best interest of all New Yorkers to improve low-carbon transit usage to help combat the climate crisis. As the busiest transportation hub in the Western Hemisphere, Penn Station is a main artery for office workers, commuters, and the general public heading to Manhattan. The economic growth and vitality of the neighborhood relies on the advancement of this extraordinary public-private partnership.

We applaud the leadership of Governor Hochul, MTA CEO Janno Lieber, and Empire State Development President & CEO Hope Knight. Their determination to listen to the people of New York City, our elected officials, and transportation experts have presented us with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring our city into the 21st century.

Building is one of the best ways to get out of an economic crisis. At an estimated cost of nearly \$7 billion dollars, the Penn Station Area Redevelopment plan has the potential to employ nearly 50,000 building professionals over the next five years. These jobs provide a pathway into the middle class for New York families.

In closing, we ask that the ESD Board adopt the GPP and create a world-class transportation hub and a revitalized community.

Thank you for your consideration of this transformative project.

Very truly yours,

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.
President & CEO