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September 17, 2018

Signe Nielsen, President  
Public Design Commission of the City of New York  
City Hall, Third Floor  
New York, NY 10007

RE: One Vanderbilt public plaza

Dear Ms. Nielsen,

The New York Building Congress is a membership coalition composed of more than 550 constituent organizations in the design, construction and real estate industry, employing over 250,000 tradespeople and professionals in the New York region. We urge you to support SL Green's plans for the Vanderbilt Avenue plaza and the innovative public-private partnership that is allowing for needed improvements in and around Grand Central Terminal.

As part of its plans for the development of One Vanderbilt, SL Green, the City of New York and the MTA agreed to a groundbreaking new approach that will provide \$220 million in transit improvements to Grand Central Terminal and its surroundings. Taken together, these investments will not only make Grand Central a more pleasant place for hundreds of thousands of daily commuters and visitors, it will enable the City to put more density where it belongs, adjacent to our most robust transportation hub.

In addition to the improvements to transit infrastructure, the development will help facilitate existing and future pedestrian movement and reduce congestion by closing Vanderbilt Avenue between 42<sup>nd</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> streets to create a new public plaza.

This is already a busy pedestrian thoroughfare, with thousands of people streaming out of Grand Central Terminal's western and southwestern exits during rush hour, creating significant congestion. This area will only become more congested with the opening of East Side Access and the addition of Long Island Rail Road commuters to the daily flow of subway and Metro-North riders.

The plaza will play a critical connective role in the growing Grand Central network, accommodating commuters entering and exiting Grand Central to the west and south, including additional commuters from East Side Access and tenants at One Vanderbilt.

The plaza is designed by world-renowned landscape architect Peter Walker, designer of the National September 11 Memorial Plaza grounds, and modeled after similar public plazas adjacent to iconic global train stations in places like London, Rotterdam and Berlin.



The plaza will be distinguished by special paving, planter discs and trees centered in the plaza that make for a welcoming and distinctive public space, while most importantly facilitating safe and easy pedestrian access.

On behalf of the New York Building Congress, I urge you to support this vital addition to our public realm.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlo Scissura'.

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.  
President and CEO  
New York Building Congress

cc: Justin Garrett Moore, Executive Director