

**Testimony of  
Andrew S. Hollweck  
Senior Vice President  
New York Building Congress  
on  
Moynihan Train Hall Contract**



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The New York Building Congress is pleased to support approval of the contract terms to build the Moynihan Train Hall, one of the most important transportation enhancements in New York City in generations. This project will become the gateway to an exploding new central business district on the west side of Manhattan, and, at long last, add an expansive, majestic train hall for Amtrak and Long Island Rail Road users.

It is worth nothing that this deal brings together an astonishing number of public and private entities, each with complicated interests that had to be aligned. That these organizations came to agreement should itself be applauded.

The end product will be worth the years of discussion: a train terminal worthy of New York City, and a new home for Amtrak and its customers, who for decades have been shoehorned into a low-ceilinged mezzanine in Penn Station. Long Island Rail Road passengers will also be able to board and unload here using the new exits created in Phase I, particularly those headed to Manhattan West, Hudson Yards and the ever-expanding far west side.

The developer team of Vornado, Related and Skanska will build out a retail complex, similar in feel to Grand Central Terminal or the Time Warner Center: offering rail passengers and the general public alike a grand public space to shop, eat, or just relax.

This project should be put in the context of the broader developments transforming the west side of Manhattan. Twenty years ago, the neighborhood was struggling and searching for an identity. Today, millions of new square feet of residential, cultural, commercial and retail space are rising around the west side railyards, and will continue to expand. The Gateway Program, when complete, will unleash economic opportunities extending well beyond the district, indeed, beyond the City.

The Moynihan Train Hall will be the axis around which all of this growth revolves. That this project is so close to happening is a turning point for the City. We urge you to approve this deal so that work may quickly proceed.