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100 YEARS

June 24, 2022

New York Building Congress Testimony at the 6/24/2022 Joint Public Hearing: To Receive an Update on the Penn Station Revitalization 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 truly modern transportation hub that meets New York City's high standard of excellence. Public participation is crucial to ensuring the rezoning and funding of this \$7 billion proposal is done in a responsible and community focused way. We thank Chairman Comrie and Chairwoman Krueger and all members of the Senate Committee on Corporation, Authorities and Commissions and the Senate Committee on Finance.

Reimagining Penn station and rebuilding it to serve New Yorkers and visitors alike must be done now. New York saw the greatest economic hit from the COVID-19 pandemic and a true economic bounce back will require the State and City to strategically invest and incentive the revitalization of communities hit the hardest. 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 and cannot be delayed any longer.

This vital development will connect Herald Square to Penn Station with improved open spaces for the community, housing units, and improved retail and dining spaces to provide residents, workers, and commuters with an improved public experience. This project can help transform 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 on the project thus far. There is no doubt that under their leadership, this project will be held to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility while also producing an important accomplishment for the people of our city.

In closing, the New York Building Congress supports a sound and collaborative zoning and funding plan for the Penn Station Redevelopment and expansion but encourage or community leaders to no longer delay the continuation of this vital project.

Very truly yours,

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