



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**LOWELL D. KERN**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**Re: Port Authority Bus Terminal Replacement Project**

Dear Governor Cuomo,

While the city and the region are engulfed in the fight against the COVID-19 virus, Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) appreciates the dedication of Port Authority personnel who are keeping transportation facilities operating to sustain New York City and the metropolitan region.

We also understand that with revenues in free fall, the Port Authority's capital budget will need to be adjusted to reflect a new reality. We request that the Port Authority Bus Terminal Replacement project continue as planned<sup>1</sup>.

MCB4 is also grateful the PANYNJ team has been open to discussing the implementation of the Hell's Kitchen South Coalition Neighborhood Plan in conjunction with the rebuilding of the bus terminal. The plan is strongly supported by MCB4 and our elected officials. If implemented, the plan would revitalize a core section of Midtown Manhattan with residences, office space and much-needed parks on nearly 13 acres of Port Authority (PA) properties. Port Authority understands MCB4's requests that the Bus Terminal Replacement Project must include the removal of hundreds of long-distance buses from our streets, and incorporate mitigation measures, such as air filtering and green open spaces to improve the district's poor air quality. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with the PA about these issues.

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<sup>1</sup> At its May 6<sup>th</sup> Full Board meeting, MCB4 voted to approve this letter with 47 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote.

Should the project's scope include these components, which are key to the community support, the Bus Terminal Replacement Project will go beyond infrastructure work to facilitate commuters' transit: it will transform a large swath of the west side of Manhattan by bringing meaningful improvements to the environment and creating a major source of jobs at a time when the region needs them the most.

The project has just entered the EIS phase which will take at least 18 months to complete. We urge the Port Authority to stay the course through completion of the process with all elements MCB4 has requested included.

Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jean-Daniel Noland  
Chair  
Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee