

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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Lowell D. Kern
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

December 8, 2021

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

John “Janno” Lieber
Acting Chair & CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Re: Penn Station/Empire Station Complex Station Advisory Group

Dear Governor Hochul and Mr. Lieber,

We are pleased to learn of your call for the formation of a new Station Advisory Group (SAG), to allow all stakeholders to regularly meet with the Railways and give their comments on the railroad plans.

To date, the project’s Community Advisory Committee and its Working Group (“CAC” and “CAC WG”) have provided valuable input to Empire State Development (ESD) through a transparent process that ensures community and stakeholders concerns are heard. However, their efforts have been hampered both by a lack of transparency from the Railways and an apparent disconnect between above-ground development, transportation, and below-ground transit infrastructure improvements.


Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) has yet to receive a list of tangible transit improvements the General Project Plan (GPP) of Empire State Development would create or finance. Such a list has not been made available, nor is there a budget associated with it.

With this context in mind, MCB4 at its December 1st Full Board meeting by a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible, urges you to expedite the formation

of the SAG and begin a process that is transparent and grounded in broad community engagement.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

Cc: Hon. Brad Hoylman, New York State Senator
Hon. Robert Jackson, New York State Senator
Hon. Linda Rosenthal, NYS Assemblymember
Hon. Richard Gottfried, NYS Assemblymember
Hon. Bill de Blasio, NYC Mayor
Hon. Corey Johnson, NYC Council Speaker
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Anita Claremont, Chair, New York City Planning Commission