



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

January 26, 2023

Rick Cotton
Executive Director
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Restarting Participating Agency Community Consultations

Manhattan Community Board 4 was pleased to hear that in 2023 the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) will take the first step in its program to build the new bus terminal. Namely, it will start the construction of two platforms over Dyer Avenue between W37th Street and W39th Streets. It seems that contract solicitation will start as early as the first quarter of 2023.¹

We understand that these two platforms would allow the creation of bus gates and bus staging areas while the old bus terminal is demolished and the new constructed. Once the bus terminal project is completed, PANYNJ will convert these spaces to parks.

For the last two and half years, the PANYNJ and MCB4, a Participating Agency in the PABT Redevelopment Project, had been meeting on a regular schedule to review the planning of this critically important transportation project and its impact on our community. We exchanged ideas, offered suggestions on ways we saw how the project could be revised to better fit into Hell's Kitchen and enhance the pedestrians' experience, and together discussed possible efforts to mitigate the project's negative effects. It was an effective and fruitful process, but it has been stopped at the request of the PANYNJ, which is unfortunate. We have been told this pause is only temporary, but it has lasted almost six months. More recently, MCB4 was pleased to have been contacted by PANYNJ's Participating Agency engagement team to schedule a meeting on February 8th. MCB4 looks forward to return to meeting with the bus terminal redevelopment team on a regular basis.

Given the public announcement of the platform construction, the first meeting should focus on that work and the timeline. Construction brings a lot of questions, and mitigation efforts often fall short, so we are eager to begin this conversation.

¹ Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 4, 2023 voted 43 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, in support of this letter.

As we have indicated many times, information flow and clear communication between the PANYNJ and the community and MCB4 will be critical during the construction of the world's largest bus terminal right in the middle of a residential district.

In anticipation of our new regular schedule, thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffery C. LeFrancois". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jeffery LeFrancois

Chair

Manhattan Community board 4

cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, U.S. Congress
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Brad Hoylman, New York State Senate
Hon. Linda Rosenthal, New York State Assembly
Hon. Tony Simone, New York State Assembly
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council