



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

November 6, 2023

Ed Pincar
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Re: Revocable Consents for the Construction of Hudson Tunnel

Dear Borough Commissioner Pincar:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its November 1st Full Board meeting voted by 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to support granting three revocable consents to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) for the construction of the Hudson Tunnel across the Hudson River to Penn Station conditioned on compliance with the requests enumerated below. The project will last many years and will be concurrent with other large projects like the reconstruction of the Port Authority Bus Terminal in the same section of our district.

The Hudson Tunnel is being built to provide redundancy to the existing North River Tunnel (NRT) under the Hudson River, allow for much needed repairs to the NRT resulting from the super storm Sandy, and eventually will be used for increased capacity on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor and for New Jersey commuters' trains that would terminate in the planned Penn Station expansion. It is part of the Gateway program which includes multiple projects in New Jersey and New York to improve rail capacity in the Corridor.

The Tunnel alignment in New York City will go eastward from the Hudson River, the Hudson River Park, the block delimited by West 29th and West 30th Street and 12th Avenue (Block 675), Hudson Yards, 10th Avenue between West 31st and West 33rd Streets and merge with the Penn Station tracks. The sections under 11th Avenue and under the eastern portion of Hudson Yards have already been completed (circa 2018).

The project's construction staging area will be located within Block 675, Lot 1. A limited section of West 29th Street is being contemplated for additional construction staging. A major construction shaft, to facilitate the removal of tunnel boring machines being launched in New Jersey, will be constructed at the west end of Lot 1. Once tunnels are constructed, a ventilation facility will be constructed within the shaft and adjacent to the shaft fronting West 29th Street. Mined tunneling operations, including ground improvement prior to tunneling, will take place on West 30th Street (between 11th and 12th Avenues). Cut-and-cover tunnel construction will occur on 10th Avenue (between West 31st and West 33rd Streets).

In support of the Federal grants that will fund a large part of the project, the Gateway Development Commission, the Project sponsor for the HTP, must demonstrate that all necessary permits have been obtained. Amtrak, as the project partner leading this component of the project, is thus requesting these consents much earlier than is customary for work that will take place years in the future.

The three consents are for:

- An underwater parcel in the Hudson River (estimated construction start mid-2024)
- West 30th Street (between 11th & 12th Avenues), (estimated construction start January 2025)
- 10th Avenue (between W. 31st / 33rd Street), (estimated construction start January 2026).

MCB4 has requested the following of the Project Sponsor:

- Leave the necessary footprint for the City to proceed with the construction of the EMS station on Block 675 Lot 12
- Present to the community expected impacts as soon as possible
- Before any activity starts on any segment, establish a construction task force with regular meetings to address any open issues, plan community communication and resolve conflicts with other projects (Bus terminal interim parking). Set up phone line and email communications with community members and businesses
- To the extent practicable, include in RFPs and contract, hours of operations, noise, idling and dust abatement as agreed upon with the community. Provide state of the art solutions to address noise abatement as specified in FEIS (i.e. sound wall and windows). Make the best efforts to adhere to hours of construction for noisy work that have been negotiated with the NYC Department of Transportation for our district.
- Avoid interference with river traffic and install appropriate navigation markers
- Always maintain bus, cyclist, and pedestrian passages as required per New York City law. Establish alternate routes for cars and trucks and use NYPD traffic agents at impacted intersections.
- Continue to coordinate with Hudson River Park and ensure rebuilding the park's portion after the work.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jesse Greenwald
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NYS Senate
Hon. Tony Simone, NYS Assembly
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Amtrak
Gateway Development Commission