



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036

tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512

[www.nyc.gov/mcb4](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb4)

**DELORES RUBIN**

Chair

**Jesse Bodine**

District Manager

May 10, 2017

Howard Zemsky  
Commissioner  
Empire State Development Corporation  
633 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Re: Javits Marshaling Yards

Dear Commissioner Zemsky,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests to meet with you and your staff to explore how the Marshaling Yards site (33rd to 34<sup>th</sup> streets, 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues) could satisfy both public and private needs once the recently initiated Javits Center expansion project is completed. Our goal is to ensure that sufficient space is included to accommodate both a long distance bus terminal and a tour and charter bus garage in what we envision to be a multiuse development plan.

In our letter to you dated April 14, 2016, we advocated for the development of a bus garage at the Javits Marshaling Yards site for the tour and charter buses operating in midtown and in particular within the bounds of CD4 on a daily basis. To summarize, the advantages of such a development include:

- The elimination of curbside operation of these vehicles, which has proliferated to unsustainable levels in recent years; including around the Javits center.
- A reduction in particulate pollutants exacerbated by resultant idling and congestion;
- A revenue-producing operation.

Since we've been advocating for this critical transportation asset, there has been a growing interest in the prospect of using this site for a long distance terminal as well. There are additional benefits for the Javits Convention Center to consolidating long-distance bus operations at the Javits Marshaling Yards location:

- Confirm the State commitment to the tourism and entertainment industry by providing a world class facility to bus travellers, a growing segment of visitors to the city
- Convenience of walking across the street for out-of-state passengers attending conventions and special events.
- Access to subway lines via nearby the 34th St-Hudson Yards 7 Subway Station will reduce taxi and private automobile traffic.
- A direct access to the Lincoln Tunnel using the West Side Highway and a reduction in the number of buses using residential and commercial corridors and thus a positive impact on traffic patterns. Both are important to the Javits Convention center operations.

Other considerations include:

- Long-distance bus operators understand that their operations at curbside are unsustainable and will soon be untenable. Already, reconstruction on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street is forcing some operators to relocate across the street from the Javits center;
- The completion of a “new” Port Authority Bus Terminal (PABT) is so far in the future that it will not be a solution to the problem;
- The constraints imposed on the design of a new PABT may not allow it to accommodate long distance carriers, in order to make more space for commuters’ carriers.

In addition to these benefits, a facility at this location would increase the city’s resiliency and emergency planning capabilities, in the event of disruptions of PABT or Penn Station operations.

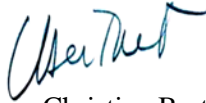
Last but not least, consolidating those long distance companies currently operating out of the PABT will also open up capacity for commuter buses at the PABT location, and may facilitate the construction of the new Port Authority Bus terminal.

For the benefit of all stakeholders, CB4 urges the Empire State Development Corporation to take the lead in exploring various options for integrating these functions in the design of a new building on the Marshaling Yards and directing the Convention Center Development Corporation to work with our community and the interested parties to advance such a project, vital to improving our air quality and the state’s travel, entertainment and tourism sectors.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin  
Chair  
Community Board 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee

cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor  
Matthew Driscoll, Commissioner, NYS Department of Transportation  
Marisa Lago, Commissioner, NYC Department of City Planning  
Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation  
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, US House of Representatives  
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Richard Gottfried, New York State Assembly  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, New York State Senate  
Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council  
Convention Center Development Corporation  
Hudson Yards Development Corporation