



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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DELORES RUBIN
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

February 11, 2016

Pat Foye, Executive Director
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street – 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10006

Dear Executive Director Foye,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) is pleased to learn from the minutes of the October 22, 2015 board meeting of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) that the board "strongly endorses ... substantial public and stakeholder input" on plans to replace the Port Authority Bus Terminal (PABT) at 625 Eighth Avenue in Manhattan.

As stakeholders, we hope we can meet with you as soon as possible to discuss the plans and the competition for designing a new terminal ("Bus Terminal Design Competition").

We note with concern, however, that a working group of four commissioners — whose mandate was "to examine a broad range of approaches for the replacement of the PABT and to identify the most promising alternative" — recommended construction of a new terminal west of Ninth Avenue.

Any plan to build on Ninth Avenue and on the side streets between Ninth and Tenth Avenues is unacceptable to this board and will be met with opposition by the Hell's Kitchen community. According to the minutes, one of the "key priorities" of the PANYNJ Board's analysis includes "minimizing construction-related disruption to...adjacent neighborhoods." Obliteration is not minimizing.

Two of the commissioners pushing for a new terminal to be built on Ninth Avenue are from New Jersey. These commissioners should be apprised of that fact that Ninth Avenue is the "Main Street" of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood. Businesses thrive and people live on the Avenue and on the adjacent side streets. We invite these commissioners to shop at the stores lining the Avenue, to talk to some of the residents, to visit the Metro Baptist Church on West 40th. They will surely get some "stakeholder input."

We note with approval that participants in the design competition are "encouraged to suggest alternative sites" for a new bus terminal if it is determined that the proposed Ninth Avenue site is "not optimal." It is *not* optimal. Only alternative sites should be considered.

We support Commissioner Rechler's opposition to obliterating a neighborhood to build a new terminal. We also agree: building a bus station in New Jersey is an idea which deserves more consideration. Congestion in midtown Manhattan needs to be reduced not increased.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
MCB4 Chair



Jean Daniel Noland, Chair
Clinton Hell's Kitchen Land Use
and Zoning Committee

cc: Hon. Brad Hoylman, State Senate
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senate
Hon. Richard Gottfried, State Assembly
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council