



**Testimony of Felice Farber
Director External Affairs
General Contractors Association of New York**

**Empire State Development Corporation
Hearing on Moynihan Station General Project Plan
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment today. My name is Felice Farber and I am the Director of External Affairs for the General Contractors Association of New York. We represent 225 contractors, suppliers, and other support industries that employ more than 20,000 professional and trades workers building New York City's building foundations and public works infrastructure.

We are also proud to be part of the "Friends of Moynihan Station."

Conceived by one of New York's great public servants Moynihan Station has become a symbol of both futuristic vision and prior impasse. The ability to reinvent this magnificent space as a mass transportation hub is brilliant in its architectural concept and consistent with our national policy of bringing people back to energy efficient forms of mass transportation. The project challenges all of us to look at our city and ask how can we enhance our future, strengthen our public spaces and create an environment for economic growth and investment.

After decades of fits and starts we are excited that this project is finally moving forward. We are here today to testify strongly on behalf of the revised general project plan. Agreement has been reached with Amtrak, funding is in place, and the project has been redesigned, allowing a stand alone transportation component of the larger development to move forward.

By dividing the project into manageable phases, portions of the redevelopment can finally begin which will lead to the transformation of the Farley Post Office into a dramatic, welcoming mass transportation entry into New York, one that will not only be a destination but an international attraction.

Now is the perfect time to move Phase One into construction. With record high unemployment in the construction industry and historically low bid prices, moving forward with this project as quickly as possible makes economic sense. We simply can't afford to wait any longer for Moynihan Station. We hope that the revised GPP is promptly approved and that the development of Moynihan Station is given the green light.

History continues to provide us with insight into how best to build for the future. In the height of the Great Depression New York was able to build the transportation infrastructure that allowed the city to dominate a national and international economy for decades. With a vibrant infrastructure that surpassed any other urban center, few could compete with New York and no one could beat us.

We must continue to sustain that commitment to New York's future and no where is that opportunity more obvious than Moynihan Station. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak and offer the comments of an industry that has built New York and welcomes the opportunity to continue that tradition of excellence.