

**Statement by Regional Plan Association
to Empire State Development Corporation and
Moynihan Station Development Corporation
on the proposed
Moynihan Station General Project Plan Phase One**

April 28, 2010

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RPA enthusiastically supports the proposed project plan for Phase One of the greater Moynihan Station project.

It would be an understatement to say that this project is long overdue. Penn Station today handles more than twice as many commuters – or should I say aggravated commuters – as it did when it was built nearly 50 years ago. Even just the first phase of the greater Moynihan Station project – the elements identified in this Phase One – would provide valuable and tangible benefits to 400,000 daily commuters and long-distance travelers:

- Today, the worst back-ups due to pedestrian congestion are at the platforms. A single train arrival can produce five- or six-minute queues at the escalators. If two trains arrive close together, as happens regularly at Penn Station, queues can last upwards of 10 minutes. With 13 more stairs/escalators/elevators from the platforms up to the station, Phase One would significantly cut down these wait times and increase safety and security at the station.
- The West End Concourse and two new entrances into the station will save up to four minutes walking time for passengers headed to the Eighth Avenue Subway, the West Side of Midtown and the Far West Side, an area expected to receive 50 million square feet of residential and office space in the coming decades.
- Those passengers – tens of thousands a day – will be able to avoid using Penn Station altogether, significantly relieving congestion there.
- A larger West End Concourse and 33rd Street Connector will provide more space for passenger amenities, including seating, ticket-vending machines and train information displays.

Best of all, however, is the project's timeline. With funding lined up, and designs nearly finalized, a construction start date of 2010 – even if just for Phase One – that is the project's most attractive feature.