

## OPINION

# Listen to Train Daddy: Amtrak should follow the sound advice of their expert Andy Byford on Penn Station and dump their \$11 billion Block 780 boondoggle

By Daily News Editorial Board

New York Daily News

Published: Jul 28, 2023 at 4:00 am

In the adjacent space we have printed what [Andy Byford](#), perhaps the most respected railway man on both sides of the Atlantic, had to say about Penn Station and whether or not to knock down a [whole block of Midtown \(Block 780\)](#) for an \$11 billion stub end terminal for NJTransit trains.



In this file photo, MTA president Andy Byford is seen at a press conference outside Manhattan Criminal Court on September 4, 2019 in New York. (Alec Tabak/for New York Daily News)

He is clearly against it, even though his employer, Amtrak, is the one pushing the harebrained scheme. We don't think Amtrak will be firing him as Byford stressed a few times that this is personal opinion, but instead of distancing themselves from his views, they should be embracing them.

The issue is what to do with NJT trains that will travel through the new Gateway tunnel. The smartest move we think is to send the trains into Penn and then build a short link connecting to Grand Central. Others advocate for sending the trains from Penn out to Queens and Long Island; both concepts are called through-running.

Amtrak and NJT foolishly oppose this and want to dead-end the trains in a wasteful new terminal that no one wants to go to. Byford knows better.