
THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY

October 30, 2024

Mr. Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

The New York Landmarks Conservancy strongly objects to attempts to circumvent the required environmental review process for the reconstruction of Penn Station. The loss of the original Penn Station is still felt by New Yorkers, who want a say in what will happen to the current station. Will riders and the public get the "world class" facility some electeds have promised?

Trying to eliminate public review is especially concerning since public monies are needed to pay for whatever happens. The Station Working Advisory Group is no substitute for a full NEPA review with public participation.

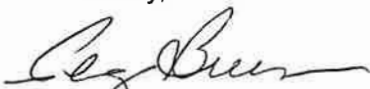
The Conservancy also objects to trying to split Penn reconstruction from the proposed Penn expansion. Building an underground, dead-end station for New Jersey Transit would require the destruction of rent-stabilized apartments, local businesses and architecturally worthy buildings on Block 780 and portions of two other Midtown blocks.

We have called for an independent review of Amtrak's claims that through running would not provide a sufficient expansion for New Jersey Transit trains. We are not transit experts, but through running promises to expand capacity without demolishing the neighborhood.

The Landmarks Conservancy, one of the country's oldest and largest preservation organizations, was a steadfast supporter of transforming the former Farley Post Office into Moynihan Station. We seek a revitalized Penn Station that doesn't wipe out vibrant Midtown blocks. Penn Station is too important a project to exclude the public, and the proposed demolition is too painful without an independent review.

We ask your assistance in ensuring a proper public review of a project crucial to transit throughout the region and honors the late Senator Moynihan's desire for a worthy welcome to New York.

Sincerely,



Peg Breen
President