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THE NEW YORK  
LANDMARKS  
CONSERVANCY

November 15, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

Everyone wants an improved Penn Station and better service for riders. We appreciate your focus on this crucial issue.

While added sunlight, new entrances, and escalators are certainly welcome, are we missing the opportunity to bring 21<sup>st</sup> century transit to New York?

Amtrak says we need a new underground station for New Jersey Transit. Building that would likely require demolishing the block south of Penn filled with affordable homes, local businesses, and landmark quality buildings.

Proponents of through-running say it could increase capacity within Penn without demolishing the neighborhood, and improve service throughout the region. Through-running would allow all trains coming into Penn to continue on to other destinations.

Billions of taxpayer dollars are at stake.

Who's right? Which approach will provide the world class transit station this city and the region deserves?

An independent peer review panel on through-running could answer the question.

The Port Authority recently used independent peer review to redesign plans for its new 42nd Street bus terminal. This resulted in a better plan that met transit needs and the concerns of residents who opposed harming the neighborhood through demolitions.

More than 2,000 of your constituents are asking for a peer review along with the Art Deco Society of New York, City Club, CNU NYC, Council of Chelsea Block Associations, Historic Districts Council, Midtown South Community Council, Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, Penn Area Residents Committee, Preservation League of New York State, ReThinkNYC/ReThinkPennStationNYC, 29th Street Neighborhood Association, Save Chelsea, Union Square Community Coalition, Untapped New York, and the Victorian Society.

The public deserves an answer.

Sincerely,



Peg Breen  
President

Cc: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Senator Charles Schumer