

### 34th Street Partnership 6/24 Testimony

- Good morning, my name is Max Wycisk and I'm speaking <sup>on behalf</sup> ~~as a representative~~ of the 34th Street Partnership.
- For over 30 years, the 34th Street Partnership has provided essential services to the heart of Midtown Manhattan, solidifying the area as a premier tourist destination and commercial hub.
- Despite that, Penn Station, at the center of our district, has been neglected for decades. What was once New York's crown jewel is now a dark, subterranean mess.
- Even though daily ridership at Penn Station has more than tripled over the past five decades, there has been no significant upgrade to the station's capacity or infrastructure. Demand will only increase in the coming years, and Penn Station must be ready.
- The State's plan for ~~Penn Station~~ will do just that. It is a forward-looking, 21st-century vision that will improve essential services, create thousands of jobs, and ensure the long-term success of our community for decades to come.
- Beyond improvements to Penn Station, this plan delivers major public realm investments that will improve quality of life for New York and our neighbors. With 8 acres of new public space, nearly 2000 units of housing, expanded sidewalks, and additional bike lanes, this plan puts people first. New commercial office space and retail storefronts in turn unlock new economic opportunities for ~~the community~~.
- Through this plan, the Penn District will become a global model for successful, 21st-century neighborhoods. One that anchors quality jobs, retail destinations, and housing around public transportation.
- As we emerge from the pandemic, major investment is needed to help local businesses and their workers. Governor Hochul has offered a vision that fully maximizes Penn Station's potential as a mixed-use transit hub, and we cannot squander this opportunity to write the next chapter in the history of our city.
- Thank you.