



BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK

GARY LaBARBERA
PRESIDENT

AFFILIATED WITH THE
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT
OF WASHINGTON, DC
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BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
OF NEW YORK STATE
—
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR OF CONGRESS
OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION

TESTIMONY

On behalf

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK AND VICINITY

In Support of the Pennsylvania Station Area Civic and Land Use Improvement
Project

June 24, 2022

Good morning, My name is Santos Rodriguez and I am testifying on behalf of Gary LaBarbera, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York & Vicinity. I am here to testify in support of the Pennsylvania Station Area Civic and Land Use Improvement Project.

The Building and Construction Trades Council is an organization of local building and construction trade unions that are affiliated with 15 International Unions in the North American Building Trades Union. Our local union affiliates represent approximately 100,000 union construction workers. The Building Trades mission is to raise the standard of living for all workers, to advocate for safe work conditions and to collectively advance working conditions for our affiliates' members, as well as all workers in New York City.

The Pennsylvania Station Project renovate the existing main station with the goal of doubling the circulation for commuters and travelers as well as provide heightened skylit ceilings. The floor space on the main commerce is anticipated to double. In addition, the project will improve access by adding 18 new escalators and 11 new elevators to platforms as well as more entrances and exits. The project will result in the development of ten (10) new buildings. It allows for up to 1800 residential units with 540 intended to be permanently affordable with 162 permanently affordable units in one of the new buildings alone. The plan will also generate Class A commercial office, retail, and potentially hotel space. This will create a substantial number of construction jobs. The General Project Plan should include a requirement that construction work must be performed under a project

labor agreement. This would ensure that the construction workers employed on this project receive family sustaining wages, health and retirement benefits. It would ensure that the potential benefits of this project are fully realized.

This project has the ability to modernize the neighborhood around Pennsylvania Station including infrastructure upgrades to this crucial transit hub. Projects like this, that improve our City while creating good jobs for construction workers are the types of projects that our City must move forward.

Furthermore, this Project will increase safety and security, make it easier for passengers to navigate through the station and connect to their destinations, and consolidate support functions. It will incorporate new entrances and access points as well as enhance the surrounding streetscape, address open spaces, and pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular circulation.

This is a comprehensive redevelopment initiative that could revitalize the entire area around Penn Station. With a Project Labor Agreement with the Building and Construction Trades Council, this project has the ability to provide real opportunity to New Yorkers through the creation of construction jobs with union wages and benefits. The Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York and Vicinity supports the use of a Project Labor Agreement for the Pennsylvania Station Area Project and projects like it. This project has the potential to revitalize and modernize our City, improve our transportation, and create middle class jobs for our members in the process. A project labor agreement with the Building and Construction Trades Council will help this project reach its full potential.

We thank you again for this opportunity to testify in support of the use of a project labor agreement for this Project.