EMPIRE STATION COALITION
-- PENN FOR ALL --

Empire Station Coalition

For Immediate Release

March 10, 2022

Fed Money Deal Might Throw Vornado Under the Bus
Office Towers Not Needed to Fund Penn Station

What will Governor Hochul do Now?

The rules of the Penn Station redevelopment game have just changed, and for the better. According to the just released "Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Program" the federal government will now foot 80% of the cost of the Penn renovation and expansion projects. New York's share of the bill goes from 25% down to 10%. Layla Law-Gisiko, Chair of the Land Use, Housing and Zoning Committee of Manhattan Community Board Five attended a MTA press conference on March 8th where MTA CEO Janno Lieber confirmed that the various Penn projects could be eligible for 80% federal funding.

The Penn Expansion project is budgeted at $10 billion, and the Penn Station Reconstruction is estimated to cost $6 Billion. The State already appropriated $1.3 Billion in last year's budget. "Now, the state could practically write a check for its share of the costs" says Ms. Law-Gisiko. "Thanks to the Biden-Harris infrastructure law, we do not need the risky, wasteful and predatory Vornado 'campus' to fund or finance Penn Station projects. The campus plan must be retired, full stop."

Lynn Ellsworth of the Empire Station Coalition remarked, "the thin justification for giving the neighborhood over to Vornado has just evaporated."

Sam Turvey of ReThinkNYC said "It will be welcome news if the new federal formula we are just learning of eliminates the plan to displace thousands of residents, small businesses and demolish so many historic sites. This highly destructive plan needed to be completely abandoned. We need instead a transit plan and a new Penn Station worthy of this City and Region. Let's all make sure that happens."

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To learn about the Empire Station Coalition, got to www.pennforall.org