

Empire State Development News

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ESD BOARD APPROVES RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PLAN FOR JACOB K. JAVITS CONVENTION CENTER

Construction on the Convention Center to begin in June

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced that the ESD Board of Directors affirmed the General Project Plan (GPP) for the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center ("Javits") renovation and expansion civic project. The plan is scheduled to go before the Public Authority Control Board (PACB) for a vote on June 17. Construction on the site will begin quickly once the plan is approved by the PACB.

"I am pleased that the ESD Board of Directors has taken this final step in moving the Javits renovation and expansion project forward," said Governor David A. Paterson. "Millions travel from around the world to visit and do business in Manhattan. It is essential for the City of New York to have a suitable convention center that can be home to countless international visitors, and attractions for residents and visitors alike."

"It's hard to overstate the significance of this project to the economies of both the State and the City of New York. The construction period will run from 2009 through 2013. During this period alone, the renovation and expansion of Javits is expected to generate approximately \$880,000,000 in direct and indirect sales, and 9,000 direct and indirect construction and construction-related jobs," said ESD President & CEO Marisa Lago. "The economic impact for the State and City from this project is invaluable, particularly in challenging fiscal times as these."

Currently bounded by 40th Street on the north, 34th Street at the south, 11th Avenue at the east and 12th Avenue at the west, the Convention Center project has two components to it: renovation of the center located on the super block bounded by 34th Street, 11th Avenue, 38th Street, and 12th Avenue in Manhattan; and expansion of the center on the block bounded by 39th Street, 11th Avenue, 40th Street and 12th Avenue.

The renovation project for Javits responds to the immediate needs of the convention and trade show industry, improves the existing building conditions and enables the Center to continue operating and complements the ongoing development of the West Side. Existing operating conditions will remain unchanged, with construction being scheduled and sequenced to maintain continuity of the Convention Center at all times.

A 100,000 square foot expansion will be constructed on the block bounded by 39th Street, 11th Avenue, 40th Street, and 12th Avenue. The expansion will contain 40,000 net square feet of exhibition space. Pre-function and registration areas, support and core functions (restrooms, food service areas), and a truck court and loading docks will be located within the remaining 60,000 square feet. Upon completion of the renovation, the 40,000 square feet of exhibition space will remain in service and will complement existing operations.

"Because of the very strong attraction of New York City as a convention, trade show and event destination, Javits operates at or near full capacity and has been forced to turn away new business, despite its physical limitations and deficiencies," said Barbara Lampen, President of New York Convention Center Development Corporation (NYCCDC). "Improvements to the existing facility will

enable both the Javits Convention Center and New York City to maintain their position in this highly competitive industry.”

NYCCDC was created by State statute in 1979 to develop a Convention Center in New York City. The same statute also created the NYCCOC, an independent public benefit corporation responsible for the operation of the Javits Center.

The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center opened in 1986 as the successor to the Coliseum Convention Center (formerly at 59th Street and Broadway). Since its opening, Javits has been New York City’s primary venue for large conventions, exhibitions and major trade shows. These events are key contributors to the City and State economy, stimulating direct and indirect employment, economic activity, and tax revenues, and strongly supporting the City’s hotel, restaurant, tourism and entertainment industries.

Empire State Development is New York’s chief economic development agency. ESD also oversees the marketing of “I LOVE NY,” the State’s iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit <http://www.nylovesbiz.com/>.

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