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**MOYNIHAN STATION TAKES ANOTHER STEP TOWARD THE FIRST PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT WITH ADOPTION OF AMENDED GENERAL PROJECT PLAN**

*Construction on this critical infrastructure project expected to begin this year*

Empire State Development Corporation's (ESDC) Board of Directors met today and adopted an amended General Project Plan (GPP) and environmental review documents for the Moynihan Station development project. This marks another step forward for the first phase of development of Moynihan Station.

"Today's approval by the ESDC Board brings us closer toward the long-awaited Moynihan Station. I'd like to commend Empire State Development and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for their incredible efforts in developing this new phased approach and moving this important project forward," said Governor David A. Paterson. "The redevelopment of Moynihan Station will bring jobs to our construction workers and improve the experiences of thousands of passengers that commute through Penn Station on a daily basis. In addition, this monumental project will also foster crucial economic growth, having a profound effect not only on the City, but on the entire State."

A public hearing regarding the proposed changes will be held on April 28 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Farley Building. A 30-day public comment period will follow. In addition, Moynihan Station Development Corporation (MSDC) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) will conduct community outreach regarding the first phase of development. After review of the public comments, MSDC will create a final GPP and final environmental review. Pending the Federal Rail Administration environmental review and Public Authorities Control Board (PACB) approval, construction on the project could begin this year.

The Moynihan Station Project will create a new Moynihan Station rail facility and new private development within the James A. Farley Post Office Building, located on the Manhattan superblock between Eighth and Ninth Avenues and West 31<sup>st</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Streets. The proposed modifications are summarized below:

- Phase 1 of the amended Project, includes transportation-related improvements to the below-grade rail infrastructure under the Farley Building. This includes concourse expansions, an increase in vertical access points to platforms and ventilation upgrades, which will work to increase capacity for rail services, enhance subway connections, reduce congestion and allow for easier access by persons with disabilities.

- Phase 2 of the Moynihan Station project includes construction of a new, iconic train station, which is expected to become Amtrak's main base of passenger operations to and from New York City. Overall, the phases will create: an approximate 30 percent increase in the number of Penn Station complex access points for passengers; roughly 50 percent increase in Penn Station complex open space; and direct access from Moynihan Station to 10 of 12 platforms at track level. Consistent with Senator Moynihan's vision, Phase 2 will include the restoration and preservation of the historic Farley Post Office.

"Under the leadership of Governor Paterson, we have worked together to refocus this critical infrastructure project. The amended General Project Plan demonstrates an increased train and passenger capacity at Penn Station, beginning with critical below-grade transportation infrastructure improvements," said Empire State Development Chairman & CEO designate Dennis M. Mullen. "The Plan has been modified to enhance project benefits as outlined in the 2006 GPP, aid in the commencement of the project and ensure the safety and security of all Penn Station passengers. We look forward to implementing the first phase of this project in the coming months."

Today's news follows on the heels of three recent major Moynihan announcements: (1) a Memorandum of Understanding with Amtrak; (2) the awarding of an \$83 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation – the final component of financing for the first phase of the project; and (3) the signing of a design contract with Skidmore Owings and Merrill, LLP. Under the Governor's leadership, the Moynihan Station project was given direction and purpose as he oversaw the development of a phased and manageable approach to bring Moynihan Station to fruition.

"With the final components of funding in place and design completion in the near future, we are that much closer to giving New York City the major transportation hub it needs," said Empire State Development Executive Director Peter W. Davidson. "This first phase is critical to the economic growth and vitality of the entire state. We are pleased that after 20 years of talk and planning, we are finally beginning substantial work in the Farley building."

"Too many have waited too long for relief at Penn Station," said Moynihan Station Development Corporation President Robin Stout. "As we move through the public approval process, we will also be concluding our design and documentation so that Phase 1 construction can begin as soon as possible."

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, committed to being recognized on a global scale as the economic development engine driving job growth, strategic investment and prosperity in New York State. ESD is intent on paving the way for New York State to become the leader of the innovation economy and one of the most business- friendly, productive and competitive economic development climates in the world. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov).