

NYC planning commission approves ARC mass transit tunnel land use application for passenger rail facility

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Port Authority Press Release

Major Milestone Achieved Towards Beginning Construction in New York

The New York City Planning Commission today approved, as part of the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), the project's special permit application to advance the \$8.7 billion ARC Mass Transit Tunnel, which includes an expansion of Penn Station under 34th Street and other project facilities. The project is expected to support 6,000 construction jobs annually.

The Port Authority and NJ Transit voluntarily submitted the ARC Mass Transit Tunnel to the land use process as part of an effort to encourage community and public participation in the project.

The successful city planning commission vote was the result of a focused effort to work collectively with the Borough President, community boards and other stakeholders on the project design. The application now goes to the City Council for final review.

The approval will move the project closer to beginning construction in New York City to build the new tunnel infrastructure. The Port Authority is partnering with NJ Transit on the ARC Mass Transit Tunnel project and has committed \$3 billion towards the total project cost.

Port Authority Chairman Anthony R. Coscia said, "The Port Authority thanks City Planning for approving this once-in-a-generation project that will remake transportation between New York and New Jersey. With today's vote, we move one step closer to a new mass transit tunnel that will remove cars from our congested local roads, improve the air we breathe, and create thousands of much-needed jobs in the near term."

NJ Transit Chairman and New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Stephen Dilts said, "Today's vote affirms the value of this project for future generations and is an acknowledgement of the attention to planning and design detail exercised by the Mass Transit Tunnel partnership of NJ Transit and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey."

Port Authority Executive Director Chris Ward said, "Our job is to help get this critical project built, and this approval moves us closer to getting shovels in the ground in New York. Building a bigger and better public transit system to serve the region's growing population is what this agency is all about."

NJ Transit Executive Director Richard Sarles said, "The Mass Transit Tunnel project is steadily progressing toward the day when we put shovels in the ground in Manhattan, which means jobs for New Jerseyans and New Yorkers in the near term, and access to the jobs that our resurgent regional public transportation system will attract for decades to come."

Port Authority Deputy Executive Director Susan Bass Levin said, "Today's decision is clearly a testament to the cooperation and hard work among stakeholders in New York and New Jersey, and moves us another step closer to getting shovels in the ground on both sides of the river."

Earlier this month, the Port Authority and NJ Transit broke ground for the project in New Jersey.

The project will double trans-Hudson River rail capacity by adding two new single-track tunnels - supplementing the existing two tracks that opened for service in 1910 and now are at capacity - as well as expand New York Penn Station with a new facility designed to meet ridership growth into the future.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey operates many of the busiest and most important transportation links in the region. They include John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International, LaGuardia, Stewart International and Teterboro airports; AirTrain JFK and AirTrain Newark; the George Washington Bridge and Bus Station; the Lincoln and Holland tunnels; the three bridges between Staten Island and New Jersey; the PATH (Port Authority Trans-Hudson) rapid-transit system; Port Newark; the Elizabeth-Port Authority Marine Terminal; the Howland Hook Marine Terminal on Staten Island; the Port Authority Auto Marine Terminal; the Brooklyn Piers/Red Hook Container Terminal; the Greenville Yard-Port Authority Marine Terminal; and the Port Authority Bus Terminal in midtown Manhattan. The agency also owns the 16-acre World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan and is a partner in the Access to the Region's Core tunnel project.