



April 28, 2010

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE MOYNIHAN STATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Good afternoon. I'm Peg Breen, President of the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The Conservancy qualifies as an official Moynihan Station groupie. We have supported the late senator's idea of turning the Landmark Farley Post Office into a proper rail gateway to the City since he first proposed it.

This project has taken too long and too many detours. But we are pleased that it has finally returned to what the focus should have been all along. Building a great train station.

Phase One includes necessary and vital egress and ventilation work and there is nothing to quarrel with. We hope shovels do go in the ground this year. We also hope that Phase Two can start and run parallel with Phase One before long.

Phase One also includes plans for new entrances to the Station at the Eighth Avenue corners. We have always supported creating doors where windows now exist. Creating pedestrian friendly areas around the proposed doors is appropriate as we understand the plans.

Phase Two is what the public will anticipate and appreciate the most and the Conservancy is delighted and relieved at the plans.

We are especially pleased that the project no longer threatens Farley's architectural integrity. That you promise to keep the exterior fabric and interior walls; that there will not be a tower over the annex and that a new roofline will not overwhelm the station.

We encourage you to make the historic trusses a feature in the train hall. It doesn't matter that the public has not seen them. They represent the innovative engineering of their day and would be an attractive reminder of the history of the building.

We look forward to seeing real plans for the Station. We applaud your goal of obtaining significant preservation tax credits for this effort.

We are also very pleased that the post office will stay in its beautiful lobby.

Our enthusiasm isn't just fueled by fuzzy nostalgia for the lost Penn Station. Putting Amtrak and long dis-

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tance travelers in Farley will relieve the painful overcrowding of the current station; provide jobs and be a stimulus for growth to the west of Farley. And all this will happen by just using and respecting Farley.

Since Phase One will be important work but invisible to the public, we agree that it is important to let the public know that Moynihan is finally underway and that the train will continue to come down the track.

So please, let's not muck it up with larger schemes, or delay this crucial project again. The people have always supported Senator Moynihan's vision. It's time our public officials delivered it.

Thank you for MSDC's work and we look forward to watching Moynihan proceed.