

**Statement for the ARC Railroad Passenger Station
City Council Public Hearing**

by

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My name is L. Nicolas Ronderos and I'm Director of Urban Development Programs for Regional Plan Association, a private, nonprofit research and planning organization serving the greater New York metropolitan region.

RPA is a strong supporter of the Access to the Region's Core project – which will double commuter rail access to Midtown. This project will end the bottleneck of the 100 year old Amtrak tunnel which is the only trans-Hudson rail connection serving Manhattan. ARC is critical to maintaining regional mobility, which is the cornerstone of the metropolitan area economy.

Construction of ARC will also support growth and create jobs at a time when New York needs them the most. RPA believes that ARC will support future development of the Penn Station area, through projects such as Moynihan Station and the Hudson Yards development.

RPA supports the application for the ARC Railroad Passenger Station's concurrent zoning text change and applications in Community Boards 4 & 5 as the proposed actions meet optimal pedestrian locations for entrances, the proposed bulk modifications are the minimum required, and design for the facility will blend harmoniously with the community's character. The City Council should allow the construction of this railroad passenger station and ventilation facilities as defined in the application.

The Port Authority and New Jersey Transit has designed the project to fit well into the Penn Station area. Furthermore, RPA believes that any below-grade pedestrian circulation elements provided in connection with the railroad passenger station are well integrated with any existing or planned below-grade pedestrian circulation networks allowing connections to and from other transportation facilities including direct pedestrian connections to four subway lines and to PATH.

This is a project of national significance and the culmination of years of regional planning. It is a cooperative effort on both sides of the river and RPA believes the Council should give ARC its full support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at this public hearing.