



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Room 932
Legislative Office Building
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SHELDON SILVER
Speaker of the Assembly

January 30, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE

Mr. Elliot Sander
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Sander:

Although I have issued a statement on my position regarding your current plan for the Fulton Street Transit Center, I wanted to express to you personally how I find the proposal completely unacceptable. Furthermore, if you more clearly understood the critical nature of this project, you may have found it unacceptable as well, rather than "sad" that you had to announce plans on scaling back the Transit Center to the point that the transit center itself does not even exist.

The MTA has once again arrived at a conclusion without ever granting those who live and work in the Downtown area the courtesy of engaging them in discussions about how to meet their needs. This proposal is another slap in the face to a community that has worked tirelessly to re-emerge as a vibrant center after the terrorist attacks of September 11 – a community that had expected to be using the Transit Center by now.

The plans for the Transit Center have been repeatedly downsized since the original announcement and the residents and workers of Downtown have patiently stood by. However, they cannot be told that their patience will be rewarded by further delays and only a shadow of what had been initially envisioned. They should not be the victims of the MTA's continued poor planning which has resulted in the delays and rising costs over time.

The MTA is required to submit a new five year capital plan shortly. I will expect to see the Fulton Street Transit Center fully funded, complete, and at a scale that at least resembles what has been repeatedly promised. In addition, I hope to see a well considered plan overall which thoughtfully addresses all the significant projects that the MTA is currently undertaking. I look forward to seeing the plan and discussing how the needs of all those impacted may be met.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheldon Silver".

SHELDON SILVER
Speaker

SS/lm