

AIA New York Chapter

The Founding Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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With the release of the Moynihan Station scoping document, the American Institute of Architects, New York Chapter would like to reiterate our principles for the development of this critical civic and infrastructure project. When complete, the new Moynihan Station will improve the daily traveling experience of millions of people, and has the potential to transform Midtown Manhattan with an infusion of excellence in building design and planning foresight. We urge the Moynihan Station Development Corporation to:

1. Give a strong voice to the public throughout the planning process, especially with regards to the designs for Moynihan Station and Madison Square Garden.
2. Construct an exemplary new station building with large public spaces, natural light, dramatically improved public access, and state of the art life safety features.
3. Strive to rehabilitate the Farley building in a way that qualifies the project, if possible, for federal historic preservation tax credits, while holding to the ultimate goal of creating an exemplary design and public program.
4. Ensure that the different programs contained through the site, including Madison Square Garden and retail, do not detract from the independent, public space of the Train Hall.
5. Plan a Moynihan Station District that connects and knits together Midtown with the West Side.
6. Make the Moynihan Station District a model for climate friendly development.

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These goals are in line with a summary of principles that was developed by the Friends of Moynihan Station, of which group we are an active part.

A well planned Moynihan Station will help to accomplish Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC goals by improving New York's transportation infrastructure at a crucial node; its transit advances will make feasible the Hudson Rail Yards redevelopment, and its millions of square feet of office and residential space; it will give new life to the Farley Building, a historic structure that has long been underused; and it could bring architectural distinction to Penn Station and the Garden, whose current homes are sorely lacking in natural light and air.

On behalf of our 4,000 architect and public members, we urge the City, State, and transit agencies to make Moynihan Station their highest priority, and to abide by these principles.

Sincerely,

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2007 Chapter President

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