

December 14, 2021

Mr. William J. Flynn
Chief Executive Officer
Amtrak
1 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. John Lieber
Acting Chair & CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York NY 10004

Dear Mr. Flynn and Mr. Lieber:

We are very excited that the Penn Station Access project is finally moving forward. Bringing rail service to the South and East Bronx will transform lives by drastically reducing travel times – up to 50 minutes each way to Manhattan, up to 75 minutes each way for East Bronx reverse commuters traveling to Westchester and Connecticut, and 20 minutes each way for current Metro-North customers with destinations on Manhattan’s West Side who won’t have to travel crosstown from Grand Central Terminal.

All these benefits will be achieved using existing infrastructure – Amtrak’s Hell Gate Line – while adding commuter stations and additional railroad components. And the project will bring this segment of the Hell Gate Line to a state of good repair, improving reliability and on-time performance for Amtrak customers and preparing the Northeast Corridor for high-speed rail in the future. We applaud MTA and Amtrak for forging an effective partnership to advance this project that is so critical to underserved communities in the Bronx and to the region overall.

Penn Access addresses some of our most critical objectives – improving the nation’s infrastructure, reducing emissions, and addressing social equity. It is exactly the kind of project we had in mind when we appropriated \$24 billion in funds for the Federal State Partnership Program for the Northeast Corridor in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These funds will soon be available, and we strongly urge you to apply for the maximum federal share of 80%. We are committed to putting our full support behind your application and plan to rally our congressional colleagues to join us in supporting your application.

We look forward to working with you to complete this project as quickly as possible so our constituents can reap the benefits. You can count on our backing and advocacy for your application for 80% funding through the Federal-State Partnership Program.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senator



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Rubén Díaz Jr.
The Bronx Borough President