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MOYNIHAN STATION AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT ***Alliance of Civic and Business Organizations Applaud Move***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Friends of Moynihan Station, a broad alliance of leading civic and business organizations supporting investment in the long-planned project to build a new Amtrak train hall in the Farley Post Office building, reacted today to news of a \$83.3 million federal grant for the new station, awarded as part of the federal TIGER discretionary grant program. The new funds will allow the State of New York to start building the first phase of the Moynihan Station, including:

- building two new entrances to Penn Station's platforms from West of Eighth Avenue through the corners of the Farley Building,
- doubling the length and width of the West End Concourse,
- providing thirteen new "vertical access points" (escalators, elevators and stairs) to the platforms,
- doubling the width of the 33rd Street Connector between Penn Station and the West End Concourse, as well as
- other critical infrastructure improvements including platform ventilation and catenary work.

Phase 1, which is estimated to cost approximately \$267 million, is now fully funded, as the TIGER grant complements \$169 million in funding that has already been identified: \$110 million in previously earmarked federal funding, \$35 million from the Metropolitan Transit Authority, \$14 million from the State of New York, and \$10 million from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Phase 1 can begin construction before the end of the year and be completed by 2015, and is the necessary pre-requisite to Phase 2, which will include a new iconic train hall in the Farley Building to be used mainly by Amtrak patrons and other improvements. Phase 2 will be separately funded and constructed, at an estimated cost of \$1 to \$1.5 billion. The elements of Phase 1 have independent utility even if Phase 2 gets delayed.

-more, more, more-

Said Bob Yaro, president of the Regional Plan Association, "We're very pleased this critical project is finally getting underway, after years of delay. There is no more important project for creating needed transportation capacity in the regional rail system and for catalyzing the redevelopment of New York's Far West Side."

Said Vin Cipolla, president of the Municipal Art Society, "With today's award, the federal government is recognizing what the Municipal Art Society has long known, that the construction of a new train station is critical to the future economies of New York City and State. The new station will create construction jobs in the near term; improve the capacity of Penn Station and the whole Northeast Corridor; and, once complete, will be a catalyst for development on Manhattan's Far West Side."

Said Peg Breen, president of The New York Landmarks Conservancy, "At last! Beginning phase one brings promise that this important project for the city's economy, transportation and heritage will become a well used and well loved reality."

"Because of the US Department of Transportation's \$83 million TIGER grant for Moynihan Station New Yorkers are on their way to once again having a grand gateway to the Northeast Communities", said Denise Richardson, managing director of the General Contractors Association of New York. "This grant provides the key funding piece that will allow phase 1 of the redevelopment of the Farley Post Office into Moynihan Station to move forward. This is the exactly the type of project stimulus dollars are supposed to fund, ready to go, transformational projects that creates lots of jobs."

"The Chelsea and Hells Kitchen/Clinton communities welcome the news that the financial resources for the first phase of the long-delayed Moynihan Station project are assured, and look forward to the transportation improvements that will result," said John Lee Compton, co-chair of the Moynihan Station Community Advisory Committee.

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Members of Friends of Moynihan Station include Regional Plan Association, Municipal Art Society, New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Honorable Jerrold Nadler, the Honorable Thomas Duane, the Honorable Richard Gottfried, the Honorable Scott Stringer, Partnership for New York City, General Contractors Association, New York Building Congress, New York State Laborers, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation League of New York State, Transportation Alternatives, American Planning Association New York Chapter. For more information, visit www.MoynihanStation.org.