



August 21, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Chair Kevin Riley
Subcommittee on Zoning & Franchises
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Re: Madison Square Garden Special Permit Hearing Follow Up

Dear Chair Riley:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond further to a question you raised at the City Council's July 18 hearing on the Madison Square Garden (MSG) special permit.

You asked, "*MTA has indicated it is ready to reach an agreement with MSG now, but can you clarify whether you will be able to complete the needed track and platform work in 2025 and 2026 if you are not able to reach an agreement?*"

Only an agreement with MSG in the short term will enable us to take advantage of a short window of reduced train volumes at Penn Station to complete disruptive work at Penn Station between now and 2027. This window results from the diversion of LIRR trains to Grand Central Madison since early 2023 and will close when train traffic increases upon the completion of Metro-North Penn Access in 2027. Doing the most disruptive work within this window is critical to minimizing disruption to riders.

The arena use severely constrains the Railroads' ability to re-configure Penn Station to address its many safety and operational problems. Specifically, MSG's use of the taxiway for arena loading, the configuration of the MSG bridge over the taxiway, the underutilization of the plazas on 8th Avenue, and MSG's loading for the Theater in the corner plaza on 31st Street and 8th Avenue are major constraints. As such, an agreement with MSG to address these constraints is necessary before major work can proceed.

We are currently in the midst of our preliminary engineering and design process, which we anticipate will continue into 2024. Following a procurement for the project's construction, early construction work could begin as early as late 2024/early 2025—including the most disruptive platform level work, which would be front-loaded to take advantage of the reduced train traffic. Agreement with MSG is needed to be able to finalize the design, and thus is critical to every subsequent step in the process.

Thank you again for your attention and consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Torres-Springer'.

Jamie Torres-Springer
President