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ReThinkNYC **Weekend Ruminations #2:** **Number II of a Continuing Series**

"How tragic, how sad that so many Americans will never know what it was like to arrive in New York for the first time in your life at Penn Station. It was spectacular. If you had never been to New York before, you came into the city for the first time... and there you were in this breathtaking, man-made, wondrous, architectural place."

-David McCullough

Which Penn Station Proposal is Worthy of this City and Region?

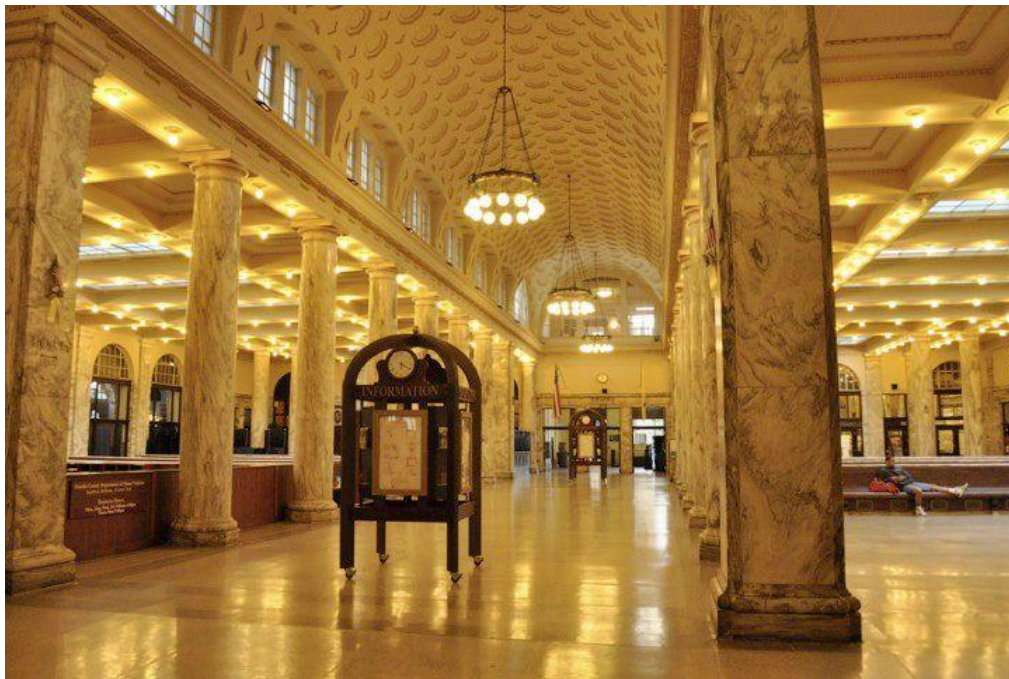
Proposal 1: The Proposed Empire Station Complex
North/South Atrium Between Madison Square Garden and 2 Penn Plaza



Concept Rendering by MTA

Any Mall, USA? No! This is an MTA concept rendering of an Atrium, a sliver of light, to be constructed and sandwiched between 2 Penn Plaza and Madison Square Garden as part of the proposed Empire Station Complex. Over 80 percent of the Penn Station/Proposed Empire Station Complex will remain below ground bereft of natural light.

Again, the lessons and successes of the newly minted Moynihan Train Hall and virtually every other train station on the NorthEast Corridor--Union Station in Washington D.C., Baltimore's Penn Station, 30th Street Station in Philadelphia, Newark Penn Station, North and South Station in Boston--seem to be completely lost. The lessons from these stations make clear that light and architecture matters a lot. Even smaller cities like our own Utica understand this message (see Utica Train Station below).



-Utica Train Station

Proposal 2: A Rebuilt Original Penn Station Main Waiting Room



Rendering by Nova Concepts

Here, we see a rendering of a rebuilt original Penn Station's mid-block Main Waiting Room for today--high ceilings, clerestory windows and so much more. This is but one of many light filled rooms in the original station. With modern construction techniques and computer generated design, recreating the original station would be far more price effective than one might anticipate. We believe it could be reconstructed for a lesser cost than the PATH Oculus Station which only serves some 65,000 plus commuters. Penn Station serves over 650,000 commuters and that number is expected to grow.

Our Thoughts

If done properly, rebuilding a modernized version of the original Penn Station will burnish the brand of New York City in ways that are all but impossible to estimate. The impact of the Sydney Opera House comes to mind.

We urge the Governor and all sponsors and supporters of the Empire Station Complex to think long and hard about the opportunity we will be losing if we forgo the opportunity to reverse the architectural crime of the century by rebuilding a modernized version of the original Penn Station.

Let Governor Cuomo and allies of the Empire Station Complex know you find their proposal unacceptable. Let them know that the present and their projected Penn Station do not meet our standards or the moment. [Our polling shows that the vast majority of commuters want a great above ground station and most are open to or favor a rebuilding of the original.](#) The public needs to be heard.

Join the movement! [Rethink Penn Station NYC](#)

For details of the ReThinkNYC plan, [click here to see our complete proposal](#).

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ReThinkNYC is a New York City-based non-profit organization specialized in transportation infrastructure and how it relates to complex urban, governance and socio-economic issues.

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