

# **PENN STATION TRANSFORMATION**

New York Penn Station Working Advisory Group (SWAG)

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

# Safety and Security Moment



## Emergency Preparedness

Our physical address is 383 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street.

Who will call 911, and who is their backup?

Who is CPR/AED qualified?

Know the location of emergency equipment.



## Evacuation

Communicate the need to evacuate.

Follow the Facility Emergency Plan (FEP).

Know your evacuation plan/route & muster point.

Assist those who may need help evacuating.

Wait for permission to re-enter the facility.



## Safety Reporting

Proactively identify & report unsafe conditions or behaviors.

Use AVSRS through the Safety page on All Aboard or download the Enablon Go mobile app.

Report all safety concerns.



## Health and Wellbeing

Take healthy actions:

Physical Activity

Healthy Nutrition

Adequate Sleep

Mental Well-being

Stay up to date with preventive services.

Take time to refresh & recharge.



## Security

If You See Something, Say Something®. Call 800-331-0008 / text 27311.

Active Shooter: Run, Hide, Fight.

Always be aware of surroundings.

Display and verify proper ID on Amtrak property.



## Cybersecurity

Pay attention to phishing traps in emails.

Don't click on links or attachments from unknown sources.

Report all suspicious email and cyber incidents to the Amtrak Service Desk:

800-772-4357  
AmtrakServiceDesk@amtrak.com

# Agenda

## Introductions

### Station Working Advisory Group

Purpose & Process

### Moving the Region

Regional Rail Needs and Constraints

### Penn Station in Context

Epicenter of the Regional Bottleneck

### Station of the Future

Priorities & Projects

### Next Steps & Questions

### Refreshments



# Railroad Partners





Accessibility Advocates



Rail & Transit Organizations



Community Boards



Civic Organizations



Design Thought Leaders



Industry Advocates



NY & NJ Elected Officials



Business Organizations

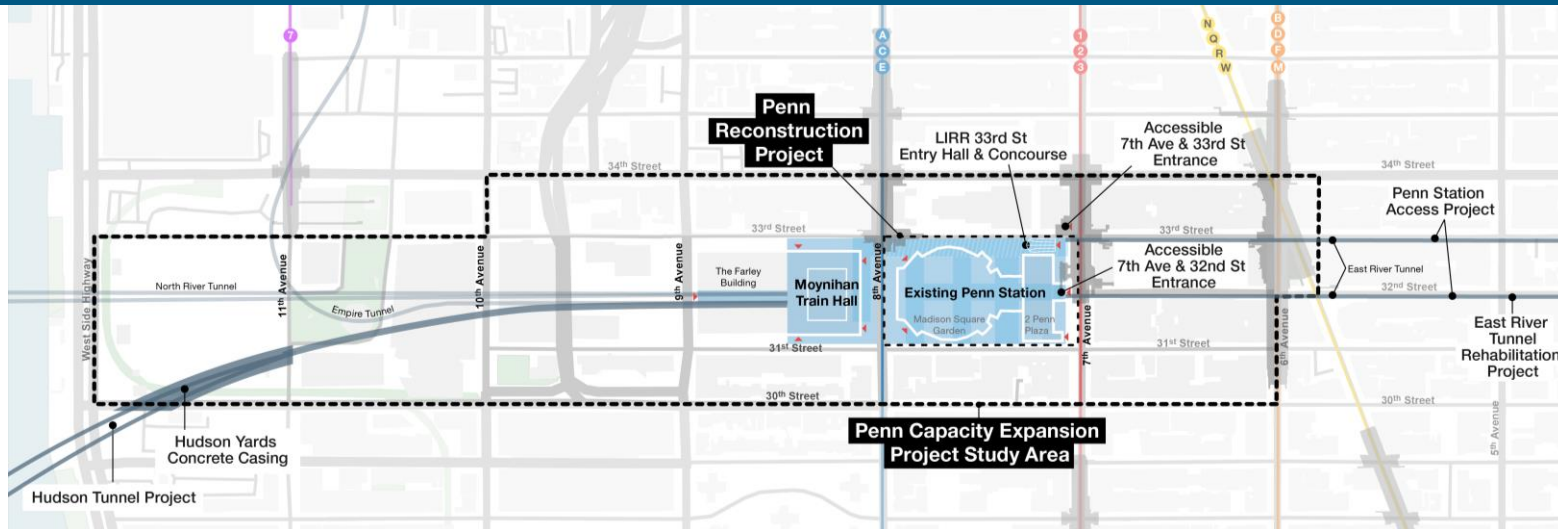
## SWAG Members

Serve as champions to help build support for investment in Penn Station

Share perspectives on priorities for future Penn Station complex

# Investing in a Modern Complex

Elevate Penn Station into a **modern, world-class public transportation hub** that provides **safe and reliable rail service** and supports **economic development and connectivity** throughout the region



## Penn Reconstruction (PennR)

Improve safety, railroad operations, and overall experience within existing New York Penn Station by increasing passenger circulation space and relieving crowding, improving egress and accessibility, and modernizing outdated and substandard equipment and conditions

## Penn Capacity Expansion (PennX)

Increase rail capacity of New York Penn Station to accommodate a doubling or more of peak-hour trans-Hudson passenger train service in support of the Gateway Program and consistent with the long-term vision established by the NEC FUTURE Program, thereby improving rail reliability, connectivity, operational flexibility, and passenger movement, and encouraging economic growth

# Discussion Topics

- Station priorities
- Project goals, elements, and status updates
- Relevant engineering and design studies
- Project environmental review processes
- Public engagement opportunities



# Expectations

- In-person engagement
- Two-way dialogue
- Quarterly meetings through environmental review process
- Input into summary report



# Co-Chairs



Regional Plan Association

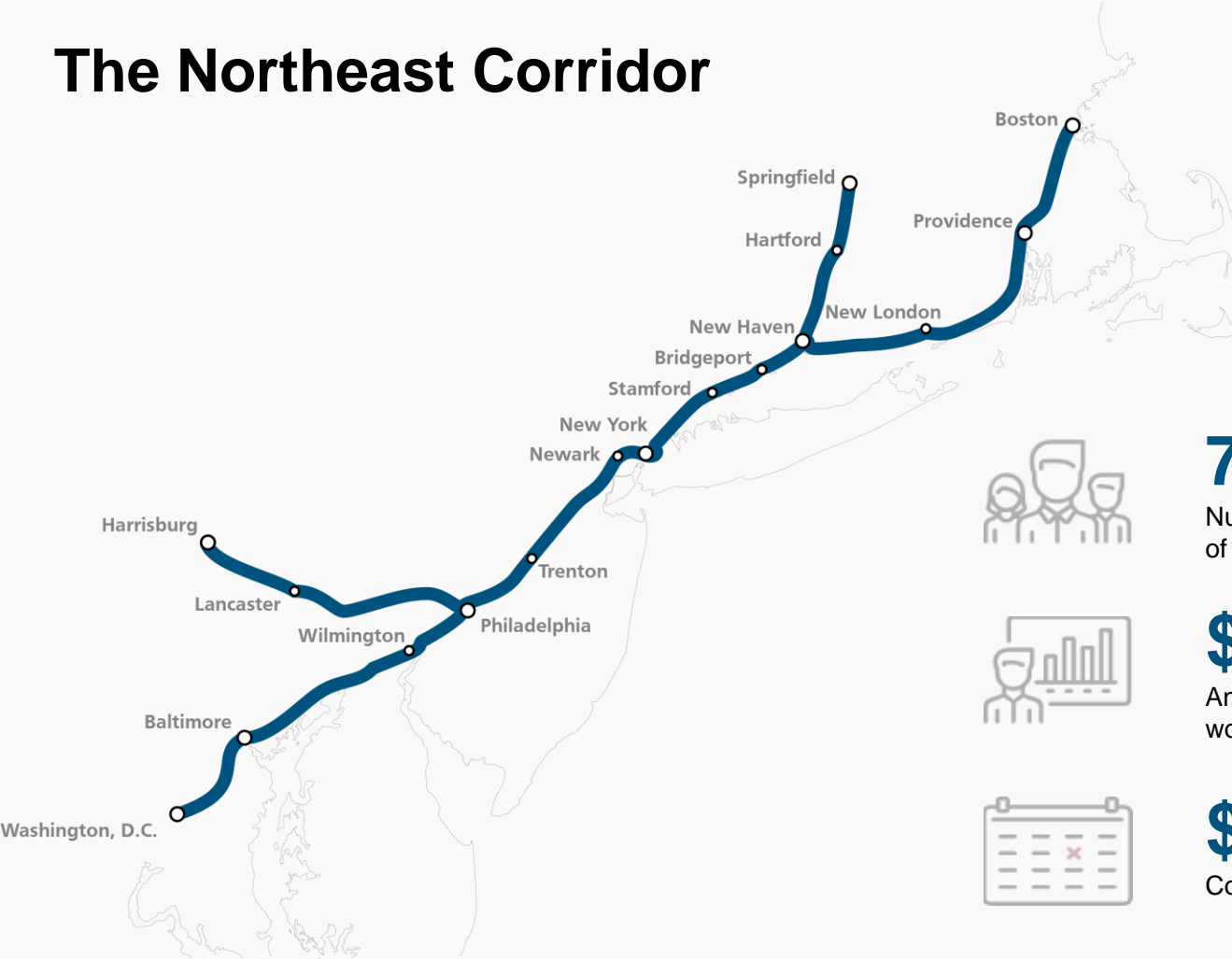


An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing the Hudson River, the Manhattan skyline, and surrounding areas. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The title 'MOVING THE REGION' is prominently displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the subtitle 'Regional Rail Needs & Constraints' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. A thin white vertical line is positioned to the left of the title.

# MOVING THE REGION

Regional Rail Needs & Constraints

# The Northeast Corridor



**7M**

Number of Jobs located within 5 miles of a Northeast Corridor (NEC) station



**\$50B**

Annual contribution to the US economy by workers riding NEC



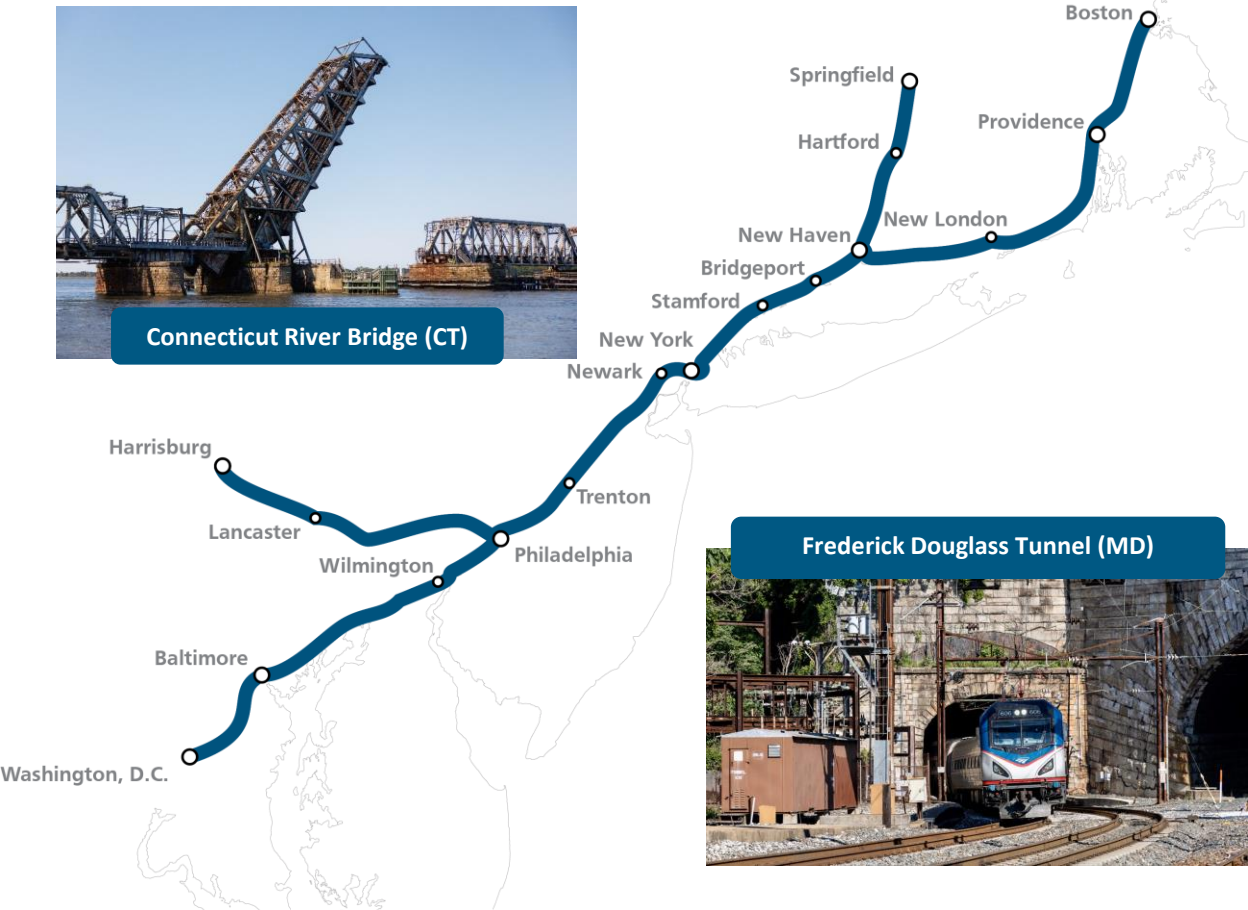
**\$100M**

Cost to the US per day if NEC inoperable

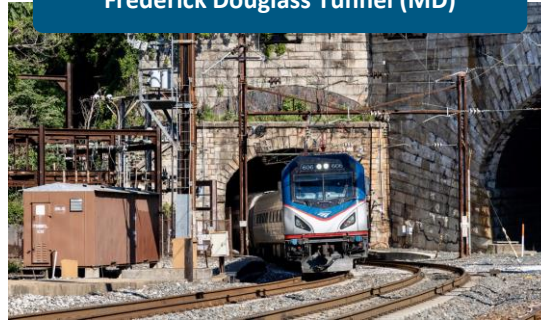
# Renewing & Expanding NEC Infrastructure for the Future



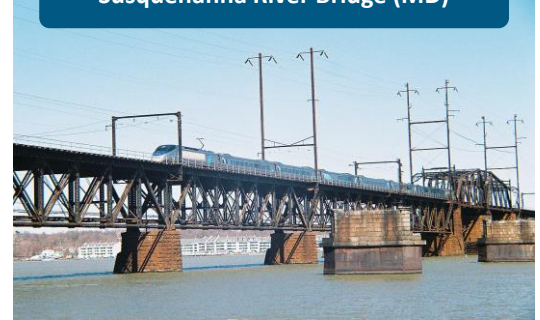
Connecticut River Bridge (CT)



East River Tunnel (NY)



Frederick Douglass Tunnel (MD)



Susquehanna River Bridge (MD)

# Zooming In on New York & New Jersey

## Post-COVID Recovery Continues

Amtrak at or above pre-COVID ridership

Commuter railroads at 70-100% depending on weekday

## More Trains to More Places

Expansion to new markets

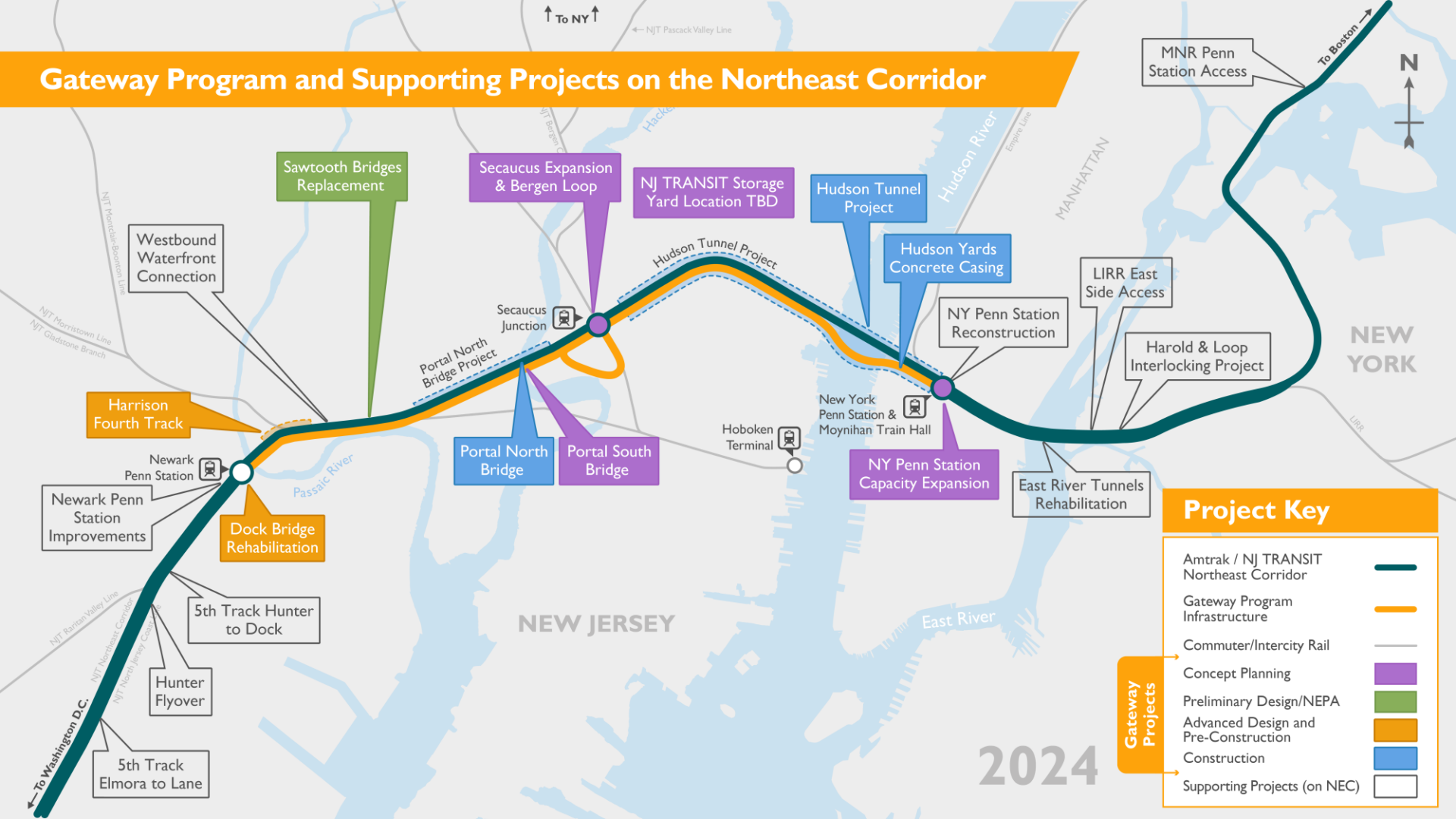
Additional frequencies

**Goal:** *Make Rail a Mode of Choice*

**Challenge:** Trans-Hudson Constraint

*Without additional transit capacity, even with more people working from home, overcrowding on subways, buses, and trains would reach pre-pandemic levels by the time the Hudson Tunnel Project is complete.*

# Gateway Program and Supporting Projects on the Northeast Corridor



# Momentum for the Gateway Program

- **Major new funding** via Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act
- **Bi-State Gateway Development Commission**
- **Hudson Tunnel Project** and **Portal North Bridge** in active construction
- **Sawtooth Bridges, Dock Bridge, Harrison 4th Track** approaching construction
- **Conceptual design of Penn Station** improvements underway



*The Hudson Tunnel Project  
Full Funding Grant Agreement in Place*



*Construction at Portal North Bridge Nearly 70% Complete*

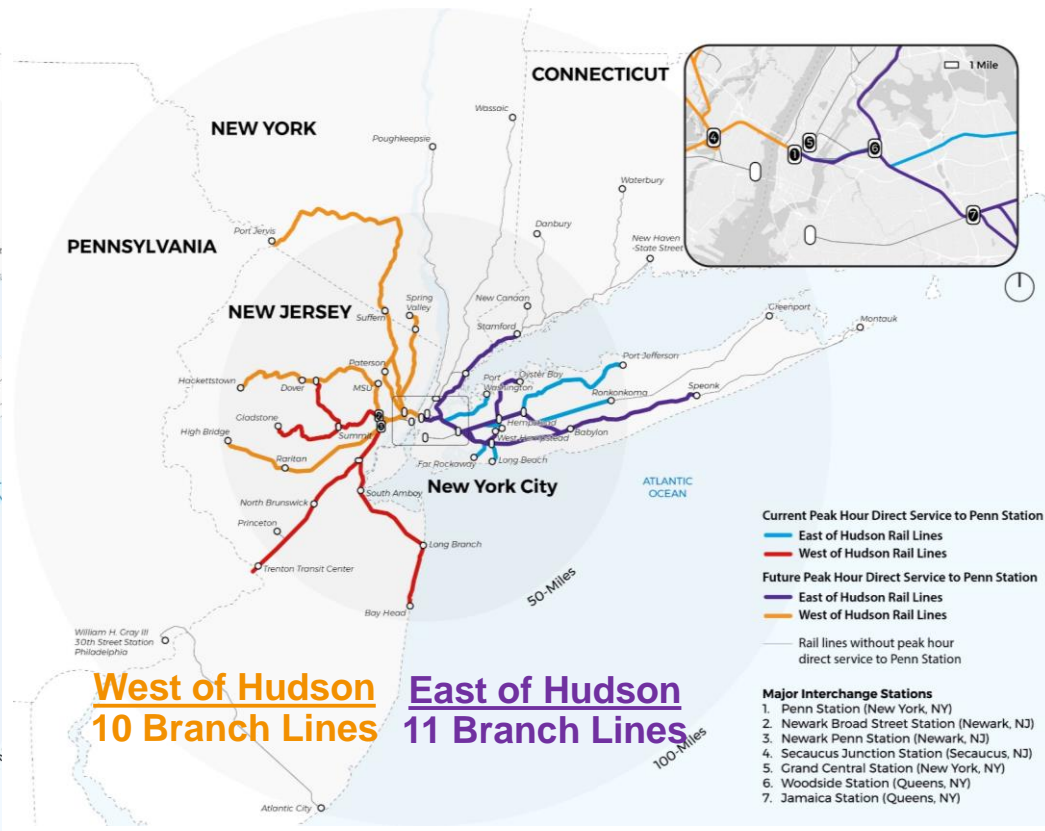


*Dock Bridge: Secured \$300 million Fed Funding*

# Expansion of One-Seat Ride: All Lines, All Days, All Times



One-Seat Rides Today



After Gateway & Other Investments

# Gateway Increases Off-Peak and Weekend Service

**>100% Growth Weekday  
Off-Peak**

**>150% Growth Weekend  
Service**



# New York & New Jersey: An Economic Partnership

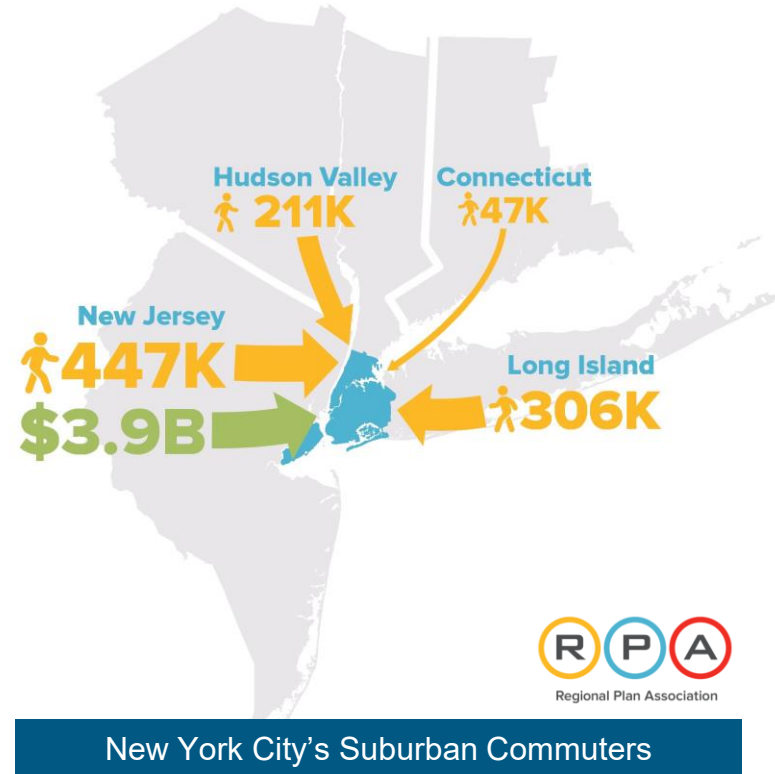
In 2022, New York City employers relied on workers living outside the city to fill more than one in five jobs

Northern New Jersey provides the largest and fastest-growing share of these workers. 276,000 daily commuters in 1990, 447,000 today (62% increase)

\$3.9 billion (7% of total NY tax revenue) in personal income taxes

New Jersey residents drawn to comparatively affordable housing near transit stations with ready access to high paying jobs in New York

New York employers benefit from access to labor



Sources: "Gateway and the Post-COVID Economy"  
RPA 2022; "Commuter Dividend" RPA 2023

# Principles for the Future



**Meet Capacity Goals**



**Renew Capital Assets**



**Improve Connectivity**



**Partner with Communities**



**Build Climate Resiliency**



**Encourage Mode Shift**

CH2  
**PENN STATION**

MTA **TRANSIT**

**AMTRAK**

**Long Island Rail Road**

# **PENN STATION IN CONTEXT**

**Epicenter of the Regional Bottleneck**



# Penn Station Through the Years



1910 - 1963

- North River Tunnel, East River Tunnel, and original Penn Station opened 1910 by Pennsylvania Railroad
- Enabled direct rail access to New York City from the south for the first time
- Connected East River Tunnel and North River Tunnel



1968 - Today

- Demolished 1963; rebuilt 1968, below Madison Square Garden
- Moynihan Train Hall opened in January 2021
- Currently serving significantly more trains and passengers than anticipated

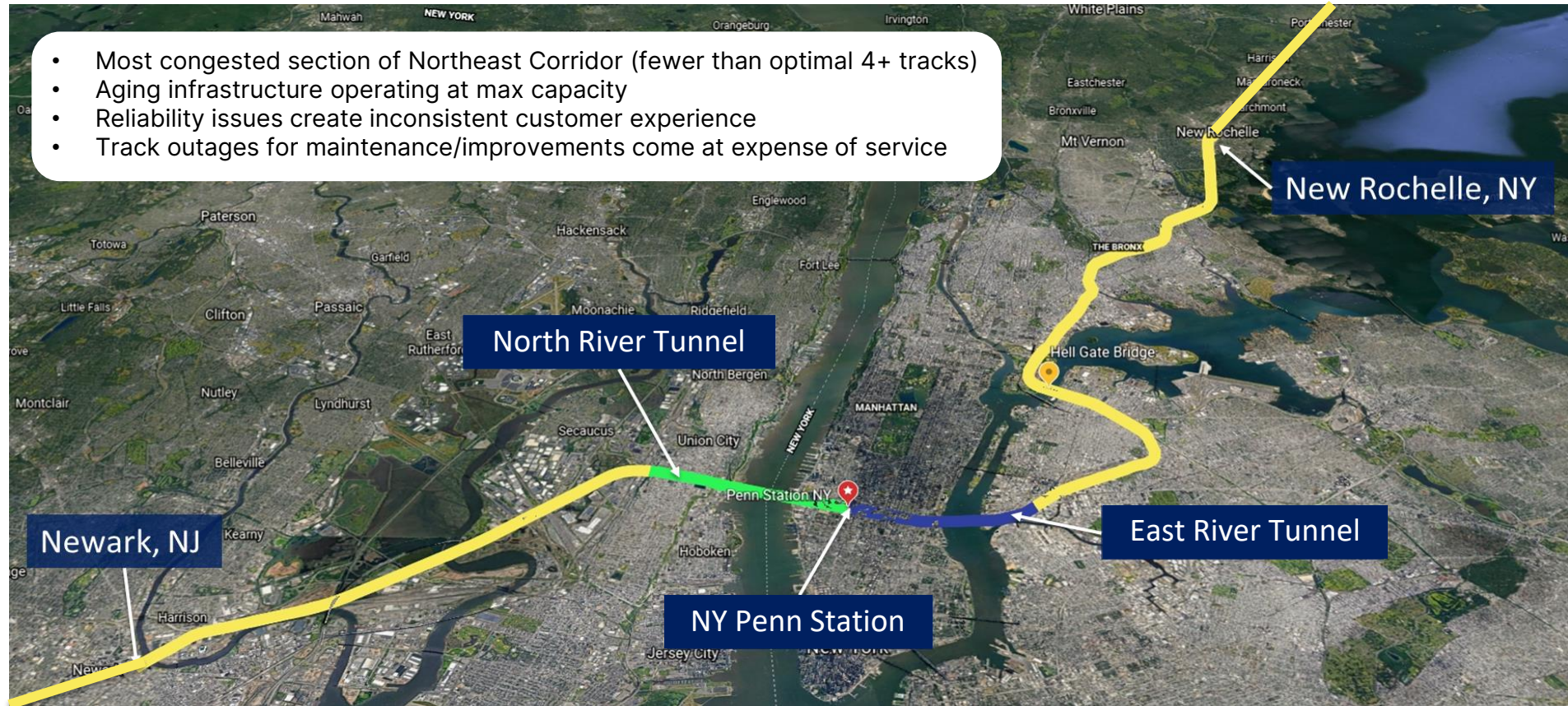
# Penn Station Today: The Central Hub for the Region

- Owned by Amtrak, operated in partnership with NJ TRANSIT and Long Island Rail Road
- Welcoming Metro-North Railroad via Penn Access project
- A “Station Complex,” with opening of Moynihan
- 1,000+ daily train movements involving complex mix of equipment
- 1,000+ employees supporting regional rail service
- Consistent commuting patterns, despite increase in hybrid/remote work
- Major investment needed to modernize and support future service improvements

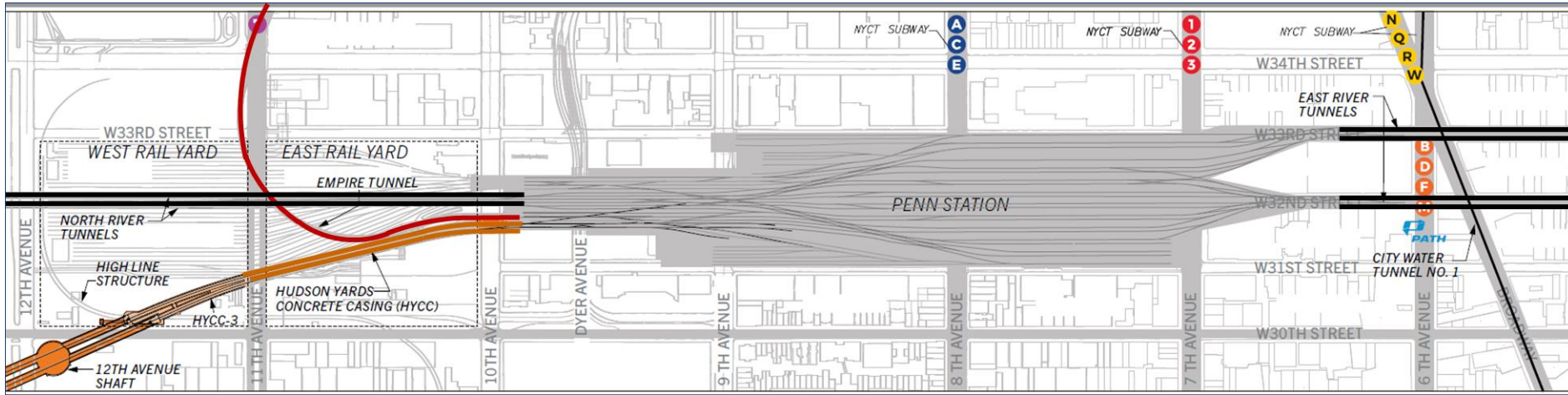


# The Trans-Hudson Bottleneck

- Most congested section of Northeast Corridor (fewer than optimal 4+ tracks)
- Aging infrastructure operating at max capacity
- Reliability issues create inconsistent customer experience
- Track outages for maintenance/improvements come at expense of service



# Tunnel Connections + Yards on the East and West



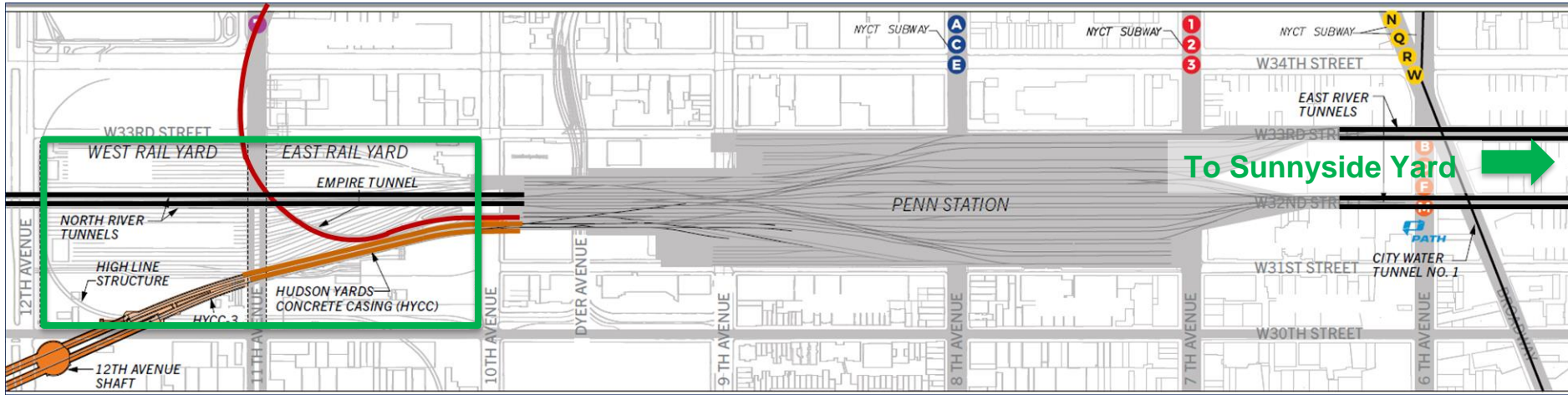
From the West:

- North River Tunnel: 2 Tracks
- Future Hudson River Tunnel: 2 Tracks
- Empire Tunnel: 1 Track

From the East:

- East River Tunnel: 4 Tracks

# Tunnel Connections + Yards on the East and West



From the West:

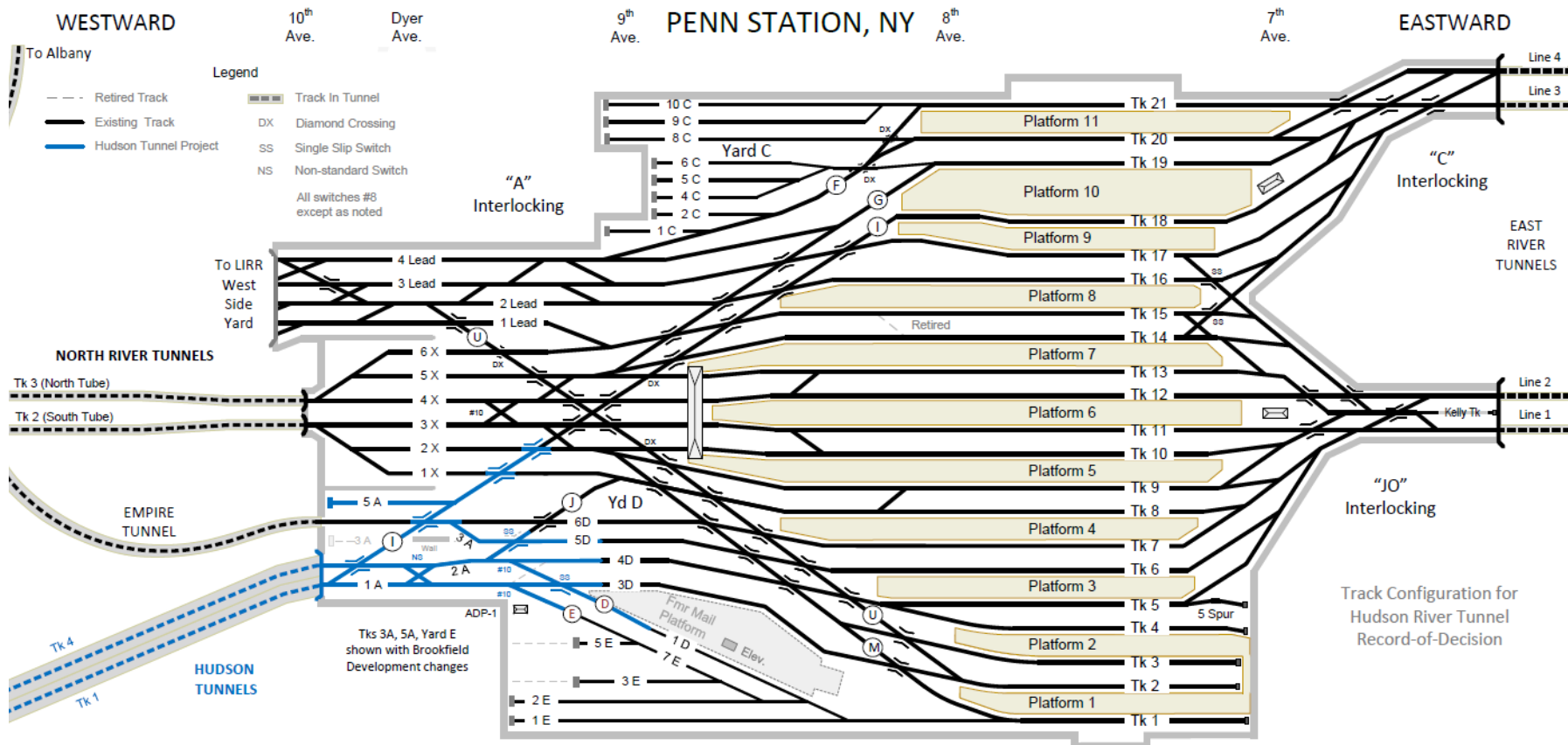
- North River Tunnel: 2 Tracks
- Future Hudson River Tunnel: 2 Tracks
- Empire Tunnel: 1 Track
- West Side Yard

From the East:

- East River Tunnel: 4 Tracks
- Sunnyside Yard

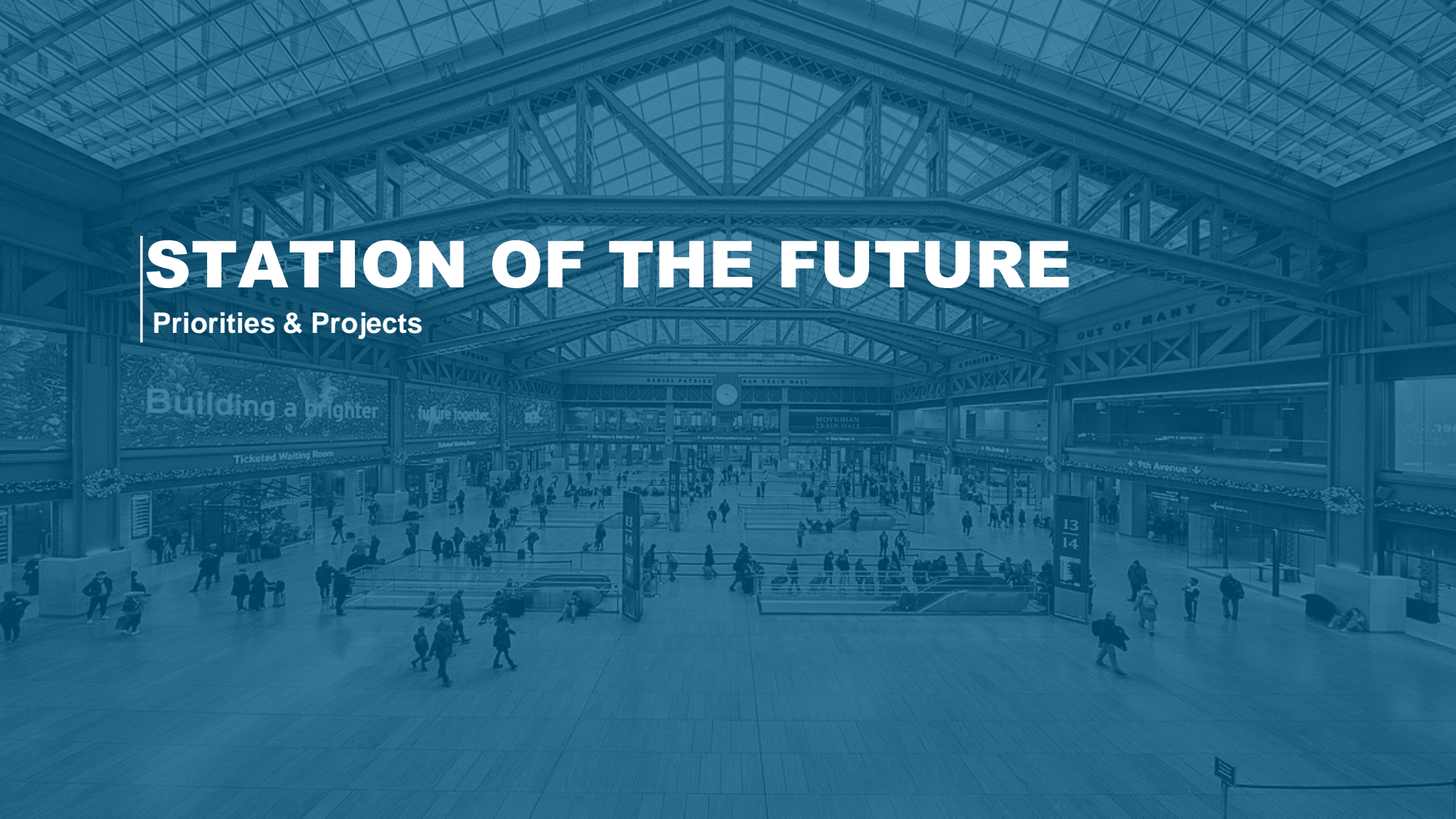
Sunnyside Yard + West Side Storage Yard are critical for efficient operation of Penn Station

# Planned Hudson River Tunnel Connection to Penn Station



# STATION OF THE FUTURE

Priorities & Projects



# Current Station Challenges



Growing Demand for Rail Capacity



Confusing Layout with Low Ceilings



Crowding & Inadequate Accessibility



Limited Street Presence

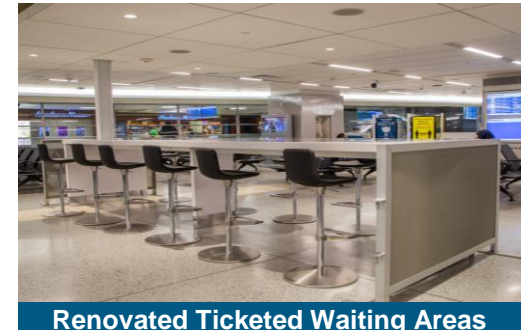
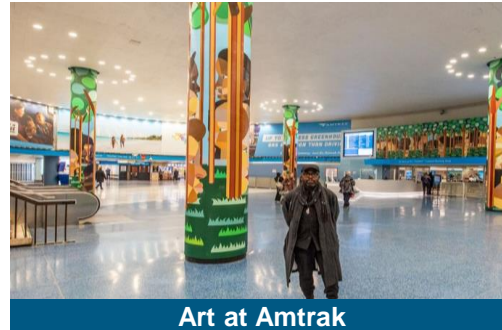
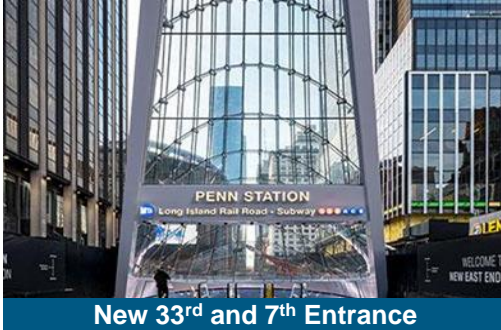


Underperforming Equipment & Systems



Outdated Workspaces

# Recent Station Improvements



# Penn Reconstruction Goals

## **Enhance safety**

by improving platform accessibility and egress, modernizing critical fire-life safety systems, and increasing ceiling heights

## **Elevate the customer experience**

by enhancing the station's visibility and accessibility, widening and modernizing concourses, and introducing daylight where possible

## **Upgrade building systems**

to improve performance, efficiency, and sustainability

## **Improve station operations**

by modernizing and consolidating railroad support spaces

## **Optimize project delivery**

by minimizing construction impacts to customers, construction duration, and project costs



*Preliminary illustrative image*

# Penn Capacity Expansion Goals

## **Increase rail capacity**

to accommodate future demand, meet policy goals, and increase reliability

## **Create a unified customer experience**

within a fully integrated Penn Station complex

## **Develop a stronger connection**

between Penn Station and the surrounding neighborhood

## **Minimize impacts**

on the human and natural environment

## **Support local and regional policy priorities**

across communities served by Penn Station

## **Optimize project delivery**

by minimizing construction impacts to customers, construction duration, and project costs



Preliminary illustrative image



An aerial photograph of a dense urban landscape, likely New York City, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. In the lower right quadrant, a large, circular, modern building with a flat roof is prominent. The text "NEXT STEPS" is displayed in large, bold, white capital letters on the left side of the image.

# NEXT STEPS

Tuesday, October 8 – Moynihan Train Hall

Tuesday, October 29 – NYU Wagner

# QUESTIONS

