

**NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign
Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA
Pratt Center for Community Development
Riders Alliance
Tri-State Transportation Campaign**

**Statement on Scoping of Proposed Rezoning
of the Vanderbilt Avenue Corridor**

before the
City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, NY
July 16, 2014

Last year, transportation groups became involved in the East Midtown Rezoning proposal by former Mayor Bloomberg, which sought to rezone a 73-block area around Grand Central Terminal. Our concerns focused on how the super crowded transit facilities in the area would be upgraded to handle thousands of new riders and pedestrians.

The Bloomberg proposal was sadly a rush job, particularly considering the size of the proposed rezoning and the many uncertainties surround softening its impacts.

It is clear to us that the proposal being scoped today is a more thoughtful one, focusing on a much smaller area, being more specific on benefits and setting up a commission to debate the future of the larger area.

In July, transportation groups had a comprehensive discussion of transit rider and pedestrian improvements that the developer SL Green is considering making in and around GCT in connection with its proposal for OneVanderbilt.

I would underscore what our groups believe are the main issues for us as the proposal moves forward.

First, we of course will want to hear the MTA's reaction of the transit-related proposals, as well as the community board's evaluation of the public realm improvements.

Second, we are concerned about the sequencing. It is very important to us that these proposed improvements be largely in place before the tenants and visitors start coming to One Vanderbilt. Our understanding is those issues are under discussion.

Lastly, whether the funding will be sufficient, all told, to do what needs to be done. There is a dire need to improve transit in the area and address crowding at Grand Central Terminal. We are hopeful that the likely changes SL Green has proposed will meet many of these concerns.

We look forward to a constructive dialogue.

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