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CITY PLANNING COMMISSION VOTES TO APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE HUDSON YARDS REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

November 22, 2004 - The City Planning Commission (CPC) today voted to approve the comprehensive plan to redevelop the Hudson Yards on Manhattan’s west side as a vibrant, transit-rich 24/7 commercial and residential neighborhood with more than 20 acres of open space, CPC Chair Amanda M. Burden announced. The 59-block rezoning will be supported by the planned extension of the Number 7 train, and together with the proposed convention corridor development, will fuel New York’s economy with an estimated 200,000 private sector jobs plus thousands of construction jobs over coming decades.

The vote incorporates changes to the plan made during the public review process by community leaders and civic organizations, including:

- an increase in residential development and an expanded affordable housing program to produce or preserve roughly 2,600 affordable housing units with a total of 13,600 new units in the area,
- a reduction in commercial development of 2 million square feet and redistribution of remaining 26 million square feet,
- a zoning bonus that would encourage construction of small theaters to revitalize the western portion of 42nd Street, and
- a zoning incentive to create a pedestrian passage on West 32nd Street linking the soon-to-be-constructed Moynihan Station with the new six-acre public square on 11th Avenue.

"This comprehensive and far reaching Hudson Yards plan is essential to securing New York City’s future," said Ms. Burden. "The close involvement of the many stakeholders in the review process has greatly improved this plan to reclaim the west side as a spectacular place to work, live and raise families for generations to come."

The Hudson Yards Redevelopment Plan includes the area from West 30th Street to West 43rd Street, and Seventh and Eighth Avenues to Twelfth Avenue. It is bordered by Clinton to the north, Chelsea to the south, the Hudson River to the west and the Garment Center and Midtown to the east. The changes approved today are expected to create opportunities for development in the area over the next 30 to 40 years and create, at buildout, annual revenues of $1.6 billion (in 2003 dollars) for the City and State.

"I am gratified that today the City Planning Commission resoundingly endorsed one of the largest rezonings in the City’s history - the penultimate step towards a sweeping transformation of Manhattans West Side. said Vishaan Chakrabarti, DCP Manhattan Borough Director. By leveraging the future land value of this largely underutilized area, the plan sets a new precedent for the creation of affordable housing, mass transportation, and acres of open space."

The CPC voted 10-1 to approve the modified plan and send it on to the City Council for the final step in the review process. This action follows the CPCs sign-off last week of a notice of completion of the final environmental impact statement, an exhaustive seven-volume analysis of the proposal. It builds on the support of the Manhattan borough board for the rezoning and the approval earlier this fall by the Manhattan Borough President.

Complete information on the Hudson Yards plan is available at the Department of City Planning’s website.

City Planning:
The Department of City Planning is responsible for the City’s physical and socioeconomic planning, including land use and environmental review; preparation of plans and policies; and provision of technical assistance and planning information to government agencies, public officials, and community boards.