



News From State Senator

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Today, the State Senate passed (S7954/ A10697) a bill which would require the Chair of the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) to provide the legislature and the Governor with a detailed financial report of large public projects in New York City. The bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Brodsky, is pending in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. If signed into law, the bill attempts to bring more accountability to public authorities such as the ESDC.

There are many large capital projects in New York City which are being financed in whole or in part with public funds or they are to be supported by tax and other public incentives. All of them are crucial to the economic and cultural interests of the City and the State of New York.

It is crucial that full disclosure is made regarding the costs and public benefits, the reasons why some of them have been delayed and why some of the proposals have been modified. With a full and prompt report by the ESDC the legislature may provide the necessary policy determinations and establish appropriate priorities so that necessary projects can proceed.

Reports would have to include all aspects of the progress of each project, relating to planning, financing, permitting, contracting, construction, and occupying such projects. In addition, reports would comment on the current situation relating to organizational, legal, financial, economic, and construction status and prospects, and the impact of any project on the capital needs of the metropolitan transportation authority (MTA). The report also should make recommendations with regard to the goals of each project and the recommended methods to achieve such goals. And, finally reports should include an analysis of the potential financing of each project, including incentives, benefits, subsidies, and revenues to be provided by any governmental agency or public benefit corporation and the economic impact that the project is expected to have on the City and State, and a comparison of expected benefits with anticipated costs.

Projects included in the bill are the Westside redevelopment projects, the Javits Convention Center, Moynihan Station and Pennsylvania Station projects, the #7 line subway extension, the Hudson Yards, the Boulevard and the ARC projects, the lower Manhattan redevelopment projects, and all associated mass transport facilities reconstruction in the area. Outside of Manhattan, The Atlantic Yards, Willets Point and Sunnyside Yards development projects are also included in the bill.

Reports are due 45 days after the bill passes both houses and is signed into law by the Governor.