REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

...a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEST-SIDE TRADE CENTER BETTER FOR REGION, PLANNING GROUP SAYS

Moving the proposed World Trade Center site to Manhattan's West Side and tying it to a more convenient rail link to New Jersey will:

--open new job opportunities for New Jersey residents in lower Manhattan,

--enhance residential property values in many areas of New Jersey and

--strengthen lower Manhattan as a world financial and trade capital,

Regional Plan Association's board of directors stated this afternoon. (January 25)

The Association board, which last year announced support of the Port of New York Authority's proposed construction of the Center and acquisition of the Hudson and Manhattan Tubes, "finds the new plans for the Center and Tubes an even better package for the Region than before."

"An improved H & M linked to additional railroads not only will ease commuting for New Jersey residents working in New York but also will open attractive and convenient residential areas for the increasing work force of lower Manhattan," according to C. McKim Norton, Executive Vice President of Regional Plan Association.

While the Association was not prepared to comment on specific plans for linking the H & M to New Jersey commuter rail lines, "the general plan follows principles the Association has urged for several years because it moves closer to a single public transportation system designed to fit the economy and convenience of the whole Region," Norton said.

Regional Plan particularly applauded the intergovernmental cooperation that resulted in the new proposal, praising Mayor Wagner and Governors Rockefeller and Hughes for shaping the project to the benefit of all of their constituents. The Association called the World Trade Center a truly bi-state project since it stimulates commercial activities in Manhattan that will result in greater cargo movement through New Jersey ports as well as New York docks.

"Since we have a single Region economically but a fragmented Region governmentally, this kind of cooperation is essential to keep us from tearing our metropolitan economy apart. That was the idea behind the establishment of the Port of New York Authority as well as an early purpose of the Regional Plan Association," Norton concluded.

Regional Plan Association is a nongovermental organization working toward the coordinated development of the three-state metropolitan area surrounding the Port of New York.

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