



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF THE GLOBAL GATEWAY  
ALLIANCE ON TODAY'S PORT AUTHORITY 10 YEAR CAPITAL  
PLAN VOTE**

“The Port Authority’s new Capital Plan finally makes creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century airports a priority, and we urge the Board of Commissioners to pass it today. The agency also needs to continue to invest in expanding transportation options to all our airports, and immediately improve passenger amenities. This Capital Plan is a step in the right direction, and we applaud the Port for recognizing that our outdated airports shouldn’t be allowed to continue to leave visitors soured on a trip to the New York Metro area.”

**Background**

The \$8 billion in the plan puts aviation at the front of the budget line for the first time in decades. The projects themselves – taken together with earlier investments – will help remake New York-New Jersey airports.

Most critically, the overhaul of the Central Terminal Building at LaGuardia will mean an end to the 50 year old facility that has given the entire airport a poor reputation among everyone from everyday passengers to the Vice President. And a new one-seat ride from the recently rebuilt World Trade Center directly to Newark Airport Airtrain is the first substantial advance in mass transit to our airports since Airtrain JFK construction began in the 1990s.

These are welcome advancements, but there remains much to be done. For example, a one-seat ride to JFK and viable mass transit to LaGuardia also need to be priorities. We look forward to the final LaGuardia CTB plan including an efficient transportation link.

In addition, all of this work will take many years to complete. In the meantime, the Port Authority can and should improve the passenger experience at all of our airports by offering better amenities.

Airports across the country and around the world focus on quality of life for passengers through innovations like unique attractions, cell phone waiting lots to reduce traffic, children's play areas, and free-WiFi.

The 111 million passengers at New York-New Jersey airports deserve no less, and providing these amenities will go a long way toward improving our reputation and rankings on passenger surveys. And, it will improve people's lives. Those are worthy goals for a public agency.

This summer, GGA called on the Port Authority to make modernizing its airports the top priority in its next long term Capital Plan. With today's action, the agency is doing so.

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#### **ABOUT GGA**

Global Gateway Alliance (GGA) was established to address the major challenges facing the metropolitan region's airports and related infrastructure that, if left unaddressed, will serve as a major impediment to the long-term growth of New York City and surrounding areas. By harnessing the expertise of leaders in business, government, academia, labor and other sectors, we seek to tackle these challenges head-on and serve as the leading advocate in an effort to improve our airports and facilitate the continued growth of the region. For more information regarding the Global Gateway Alliance, please visit [www.globalgatewayalliance.org](http://www.globalgatewayalliance.org). Follow GGA on Twitter @GGA\_NYNJ and 'Like' the organization on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/UsqxGw>.

GGA's board of directors includes: **Joe Sitt** (Chairman), CEO, Thor Equities; **Stuart Appelbaum**, President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; **Chris Giamo**, Regional President for TD Bank; **Dan Glickman** former Congressman and U.S. Agriculture Secretary; **David Hopkins**, Senior Director of Aviation at the New York City Economic Development Corporation; **Jared Kushner**, Owner of Kushner Properties and the New York Observer; **George Miranda**, Teamsters' International Vice President; **Mitchell Moss**, Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University; **William Rudin**, CEO of Rudin Management Company, Inc. and Chairman of ABNY; **Joseph Spinnato**, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; **Alvin S. Trenk**, Chairman and CEO of Air Pegasus Corp; **Peter Ward**, President of the Hotel Trades Council on New York; **Kathryn Wylde**, President of the Partnership for New York City, and **Tim Zagat**, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Zagat Survey.