



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** John Collins

(917) 496-4587

## **Statement from Global Gateway Alliance on the Port Authority Making Airports the Top Priority in 10 Year Capital Plan**

**NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY** – *Global Gateway Alliance Chairman today released the following statement from Chairman Joe Sitt on the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey making airports the top priority in its 10-year capital plan:*

“For too long, our airports have lagged behind other transportation and budget projects.

“The Port Authority needs to make airports the number one priority in its 10 year Capital Plan. We’re pleased that the agency is taking the first step in that direction today by moving a plan with \$8 billion in aviation investment to its full Board. This is the biggest single commitment to 21<sup>st</sup> Century airports we’ve seen in decades.

“Specifically, new investments in a fast redevelopment of the outdated Central Terminal Building (CTB) at LaGuardia and Terminal A at Newark are critically important, along with runway expansions to add capacity on the ground. And creating a one-seat ride from Lower Manhattan to Newark Airport Airtrain by extending PATH is an innovative advance in transportation to and from our airports. There also must be better transportation to LaGuardia through expanded Rapid Bus service and a mass transit connection to the new CTB, and expanded JFK Airtrain service.

“These investments are vital, but they also take years to complete. In the meantime, the Port Authority can make real strides toward better airports by improving passenger amenities. Study after study demonstrates that our airports are light years behind the world’s leaders in innovative passenger comforts that not only create a better brand and experience, but also drive revenue increases. The agency should start by finally delivering free WiFi for all 111 million annual passengers, just as every major airport around the world does.

“The Port Authority and the airlines have already invested over \$6 billion in airport modernization in recent years, and it’s paid off in new and improved terminals and better runways. A new Capital Plan is the next step in creating airports that the New York-New Jersey region will benefit from for decades to come.”

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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.