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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE OPENING OF THE 7
TRAIN EXTENSION, NEW HUDSON PARK AND BOULEVARD**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you, Tom. This is really a monumental day for this city. As you've heard, it's a long time coming – but I think it's been worth the wait to have the number 7 line extended. I think it's going to help our whole city.

This is really central to making the Hudson Yards a reality, which I think will have a hugely positive, long term impact for our city. This extension connects this extraordinary development happening here – a whole new city being created within our city – connects it with thousands of jobs in neighborhoods like Flushing and in Central Queens, bringing people from those neighborhoods to the jobs here. Previously, that might not have been believable – but now it's happening.

Now, this is the only subway line south of 66th Street to provide service to the far West Side. And it will open up opportunities, and as you heard, will carry – extraordinary – 56,000 people per day. It was a big investment, and it will have a big impact.

I also want to commend my predecessor Michael Bloomberg for his vision and for the energy he put into this effort. He saw an opportunity for this city, and he went at it with all he had – and it's going to be a proud part of his legacy. And, you know, you can tell that something is personal to a leader – this vision was very personal to him. In fact, when the work started, there were two huge tunnel boring machines that were necessary to make this happen – Mayor Bloomberg asked they be named after his daughters, Emma and Georgina – so it's personal.

[Laughter]

He believed, he cared, and he got it done. It was done through an extraordinary private/public partnership, and it's going to have, again, a lasting impact on this city.

I want to express my appreciation to Senator Schumer. We work so closely together on so many issues, and our senior senator brings a lot of wisdom, a lot of strategic insight, to what we work on every day. I've praised him before for what he's helped us achieve in the aftermath of Sandy, and on so many other fronts.

But let's not forget, he had this idea long before it became fashionable. Close to 20 years ago, he was already talking about this possibility. And, you know, sometimes you've got to be the voice in the wilderness to be able to get things to move for the long term. So, we might not be sitting here today at this great moment, if it weren't for Chuck Schumer. Let's give him a round of applause.

[Applause]

And I know that our colleagues who work in Washington are fighting for us – I’m going to talk in a moment about that challenge, but I want to thank, in addition to Senator Schumer – I want to of course thank Congressman Jerry Nadler for his leadership.

[Applause]

I want to thank Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer; State Senator Brad Hoylman; Assembly Member Richard Gottfried; Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, the Chair of the Council Transportation Committee; Council Member Corey Johnson, who represents this neighborhood.

[Applause]

I want to thank John Samuelson, President of TWU Local 100.

[Applause]

I want to thank, from my administration, Polly Trottenberg, our DOT Commissioner and MTA Board Member; the President of the Economic Development Corporation, Maria Torres-Springer; and our Commissioner for the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, Victor Calise. Thank you to all of them.

[Applause]

We believe this city can, and will, and must grow. When you look at our OneNYC plan – our vision for the future of this city – it’s all about growth – growth in every sense.

Yes, we will – sooner than you know – be at 9 million people. And we need a growing and more diversified economy – and thank God we’re moving in that direction every day – 177,000 more jobs since I had the honor of taking the oath of office in January of 2014.

We’re growing in terms of resiliency. We’re growing in terms of sustainability – one of the cities that has pledged to the highest sustainability goals and resiliency goals of any city in this country. We also have to grow in terms of inequality and inclusion.

What we’re doing today is part of that. And that’s what you see throughout the OneNYC plan – creating the infrastructure, creating the transportation that maximizes inclusion, maximizes economic opportunity, including for folks who haven’t had enough.

That’s an urgency we feel. And we’re going to keep working every day, and to use the tools we have, to create the infrastructure the city needs.

Now, Senator Schumer is right. We have been missing the kind of partnership in Washington that this city deserves. I know Chuck’s been fighting for it, Jerry’s been fighting for it – I know it’s a tough place to fight in.

And let's be clear, this city today is one of the economic drivers of the entire nation. This region is one of the strongest in the nation. So much that is happening here has ramifications for our whole country. And yet, when we go to Washington and ask for our fair share, we still find the voices of the people of New York City are not [inaudible] enough by those in power in the Congress.

It's something we have to change for the good of this city, the good of this region, the good of this country. I commend Senator Schumer for his leadership on the highway bill. What we all believe in is a highway bill which also includes mass transportation and so many other pieces of our transportation needs – a highway bill that actually invests in the future – not just here – in every part of the country. That's what we did for decades and decades. Federal government has to come back to that again for the good of all.

Now, I've been working with mayors all around the country – by the way, you will find some bipartisanship on this issue. I [inaudible] Republican mayors who feel just as strongly as I do. The federal government must get back in the infrastructure business, for the good of all. You can't ask localities to carry the burden alone. This country worked for decades because the federal government took the lead – and we need get back there again. You can clap for that.

[Applause]

This city has done so much to build lives, where people were very proud of the \$2.4 billion dollars we invested in this project right here – \$2.4 billion dollars.

I think it's very important we remember the facts. The City of New York and the people of New York are the backbone of the funding of so much of the MTA. We pay 73 percent of the MTA budget through the city government's contribution, through the fares our people pay, the tolls our people pay, the taxes our people pay. We are doing our share.

We want to see the federal government step up. We want to see the state government step up. For the good of all, let's do this together – and we can really build the kind of future we need.

This is a special moment – first time in 60 years, my friends – 60 years! There hasn't been a group of people gathered together to open a subway extension financed by the City of New York – it's been 60 years since this kind of moment has occurred. We're very proud of it.

It is necessary so that this new city within a city can be all it is. It's going to be 50 million new square feet near the Hudson Yards – 50 million square feet of new businesses, hotels, schools, housing, and – most especially important to me – affordable housing. 5,000 units of affordable housing will ultimately be developed here – 25 percent of the total. There will be 14,000 office and retail jobs, more than 7,500 construction jobs in the process.

I have to tell you – those are the kind of numbers that change people's lives, and change the economy of this city. But as I've said, the number of jobs alone is not the only issue. [Inaudible] of those jobs pay a decent wage, and we're very proud of the fact that we greatly expanded the number of workers in this area who are covered by the Living Wage Law. We've worked with our partners at Related – we've generated 1,650 living wage jobs – jobs you can actually feed a family on. Looking ahead to all the jobs that will be constructed in this process, all of which we intend to ensure will pay a living wage.

And there's more – there's the beautiful public space you heard referenced before. Hudson Park and the Boulevard opening today – it's going to be a huge addition to what makes this city great.

All of this anchored by the number 7 extension. We're about to take the first ride – and it's going to be a joy to take that first ride, and see another great chapter in the history of this city beginning.

Just very briefly in Spanish –

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

With that I say, *muchos gracias a todos*, and let's get on with this great day – a great new day for New York City.

Thank you.

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