

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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A better route for the redesign of Penn Station

Manhattan: Chuck Weinstock is right on target in making light of Gov. Hochul's non-plan for redoing Penn Station ("The blind men & the white elephant," op-ed, Feb. 27). Missing is a bigger picture of how the region's three commuter rail lines could work together to shrink the traffic overload on the region's congested and polluted highways.

A starting point would be for the governor to take a fresh look at proposals studied in detail by the MTA, NJ Transit and the Port Authority in their joint study, Access to the Region's Core (ARC), completed in 2003. One of the most appealing was a plan to connect Penn Station and Grand Central Terminal as part of the plan for a much-needed doubling of rail capacity under the Hudson River. Instead of the costly and disruptive demolition of historic buildings to the south of Penn Station to expand its platform capacity, the ARC plan would take advantage of infrastructure built in 1910 when Penn Station was completed that would facilitate the link to Grand Central. N.J. commuters heading to Manhattan's growing East Midtown office concentration could remain seated on their trains until Grand Central. This would greatly ease the plight of commuters heading to East Midtown while relieving overcrowding on stairways and passageways at Penn.

When this plan was first proposed, Metro-North officials strongly objected to losing their sole use of the 46 platform tracks at GCT. Since Hochul controls Metro-North, she could simply ask them to play nice with their sibling at Grand Central and share this valuable asset. This would benefit commuters and taxpayers. *George Haikalis, president Institute for Rational Urban Mobility*



Facility availability

Scarborough, N.Y.: Shrinking public school enrollment in the city creates an opportunity to serve the homeless. As public schools merge and close, Mayor Adams should revamp those educational facilities to provide housing and mental health services for the homeless, whose numbers will, unfortunately, continue to grow.

Thomas F. Comiskey

Show of support

Manhattan: How about asking Mayor Adams to direct city workers to paint the colors of the Ukrainian flag, blue and yellow, on the street in front of the Russian consulate? They could also hang that flag from adjacent street lights and traffic signals so that every time the Russians look outside, they're reminded of the atrocity they're perpetrating.

Susan Addeleston

Bigger deal

Manhattan: I'm all in favor of celebrating Black History Month by lighting the Empire State Building in red, green and black — except when Russia is invading Ukraine. The folks in charge of the building's lights had an entire month to pay tribute to Black history, but the slaughter of incredibly courageous people defending their homeland and their democracy from a lawless dictator is of far greater urgency. I called the building last week but was told to "call back on Monday." I don't fault the guy

answering the phones; he's just doing his job. If the Daily News would suggest a change of colors to blue and yellow in solidarity with Ukraine, I think the folks running the show would see the value in it. I dare say a lot of New Yorkers would agree. Courageous Black journalists Tyrell Starr and Clive Myrie might, too, as they're currently reporting in the war zone.

G.F. Edwards

Cold words

Brooklyn: To Voicer Tim Collins, who "doesn't really care about the invasion of Ukraine": Were you born without a heart and soul or did you lose them somewhere along the way? Such a horrible and selfish thing to say! And FYI, "aliens" are not invading our country. You are crude and paranoid. Oh, and the U.S. does not belong to us, if you want to get technical about it. People like you are why wars start in the first place. What a shame and disgrace you are.

Susan Cassano

Ballsy

Larchmont, N.Y.: At the Battle of the Bulge during WWII, the town of Bastogne was surrounded by an overwhelming force of Nazi tanks. The Germans sent a message to the commanding officer of the U.S. Army, General Anthony McAuliffe, informing him that he had two hours to surrender before the tanks would attack. His one-word response to them was "Nuts!" The Germans never took the town and his quote lives in history. We now

have another quote that should also live in history. When the president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, was offered safe passage to leave his country as the capital, Kyiv, was surrounded by Russian tanks, his reply was, "I need ammunition, not a ride!"

Steve Michaud

Global security

Yonkers: I'm guessing that Voicer Manny Agostini is unaware of the sacrifices of ordinary Americans in WWII to stop Hitler. No one liked it then either, but you may recall the price of appeasing an insane dictator.

Suzanne Hayes Kelly

Public opinion

Richmond, Va.: Has anyone from the Daily News interviewed the Russians who are living in the Brighton Beach area about what they think of the invasion of Ukraine? I also wonder what the people in Russia think about Putin. Are they like the German people and what they thought about Hitler when he came to power?

Marty Goodman

Blame Russia

Little Egg Harbor, N.J.: It does make me laugh but, at the same time, it's pathetic how many Voicer letters are either blasting Trump or blaming Biden for this war in Ukraine. This is akin to blaming a gun for a murder. The blame lies with Putin, not our past or current president. Like Biden or not, he is our president; like Trump or not, he also was. Presidents have term limits so, for the love of God, relax. The amount of anger and hatred

directed at these two geriatric, imperfect men by voters is like watching monkeys in a cage throwing excrement at each other. Nice to see the patriotism and unity of the Ukrainian people — it stands in stark contrast to the hate that Americans show toward their fellow citizens.

William Cook

Russian asset

Fort Worth, Tex.: What would you call a man who tried to overthrow our democracy on Jan. 6 and is now praising a dictator for waging an unprovoked war against Ukraine, along with threatening nuclear war against any country that dares to oppose him? I imagine Vladimir Putin would call that man Comrade Trump.

Sharon Austry

Imperial ambition

Brooklyn: If Putin's aim is to restore the old Soviet borders, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia may be next on his list. He's already threatened Sweden and Finland. He's copying the Hitler playbook. Wake up world, wake up now!

Vito Labella

Problematic ally

Brooklyn: Here's a terrifying thought: If Trump had been re-elected, we would have either left NATO or it would have been severely weakened. Trump would be extorting Ukraine for weapons sales or not supplying weapons at all. Sanctions against Russia would be much weaker and Russia would be emboldened to invade other former satellite countries in Europe. Thank God we have a president today in Joe

Biden, who embodies America's true values of freedom and democracy and has the resolve to lead NATO (and the world) in doing whatever is possible to make Russia pay for its sins.

Irwin Cantos

No contest

San Francisco: Voicer David DiBello claims that the Russian invasion of Ukraine would not have happened under Trump. Since Trump was giving Putin everything but a lapdance, it's very unlikely that he would have done anything to stop him.

Jimmy Layton

National defense

Astoria: Boxing world champions Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko, Vasily Lomachenko and Oleksandr Usyk have all returned to Ukraine to fight Russia. What's the American equivalent? The oppressed millionaires of the NFL daringly kneeling for the national anthem. *Bradley Morris*

Minor inconvenience

West Harrison, N.Y.: On "The View," Joy Behar is upset about how the war is going to affect the West because she won't be able to visit Italy, where she hasn't been in four years. This woman needs help.

Peter Creanza

Race-conscious

Pine Plains, N.Y.: As a Supreme Court justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson will have to recuse herself from any case involving affirmative action because that is how she will have gotten her spot on the court.

Joseph McCluskey