

# City on the Rise

## Hudson Yards Megadevelopment is a Hopeful Sign for New York's Future

The vision of building a mini-city larger than Rockefeller Center on Manhattan's West Side has been long deferred by ups and downs of the national economy and New York politics. But now, a megadeveloper has broken ground on the Hudson Yards.

In moving forward, the Related Cos. made a welcome bet on the city's future and set the firm toward pouring \$1.5 billion into the Metropolitan Transportation Authority over many years.

The \$15 billion, 15-building project is planned for construction on platforms to be built largely over Long Island Rail Road train yards extending from 10th to 12th Aves. between 30th and 33rd Sts.

First will come a 47-story, 1.7-million-square-foot office tower that will stand on solid ground at 30th St. and 10th Ave. and be the international headquarters of leather goods maker Coach. Stunning architectural renderings then call for an office tower taller than the Empire State Building; mixed-use towers, including a hotel and residential condos; a retail arcade; cultural space, and an enormous outdoor plaza. A planned second phase entails residential buildings overlooking the Hudson River.

While dreams this large tend to shift and even founder, the signs of progress are most welcome. They are also the product of Mayor Bloomberg's strategy of making development economically viable in what's long been a no-man's land.

Among the key drivers was Bloomberg's decision to put the city into the business of building a subway line. Although the MTA wanted nothing to do with it, the mayor had the city borrow a couple billion dollars to extend the No. 7 tracks west under 42nd St. from Times Square and then south to 33rd St., with the money to be repaid eventually by area property owners.

The trains should be running by the end of the mayor's term next year, enabling thousands to get to and from the neighborhood and fill all the new offices and apartments. Without that transportation, there would be nothing — no much-needed first-class office space, no new housing, no boost to real estate taxes, no rent payments to the MTA.

Related Chairman Stephen Ross says he sees "the new heart of the city" in the Hudson Yards. Let it beat strongly.

Read the original article on [New York Daily News](#).