



# **NYPIRG** **Straphangers Campaign**

A project of the New York Public Interest Research Group

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## **STATEMENT ON MAYOR de BLASIO'S EAST MIDTOWN ZONING PROPOSAL May 30, 2014**

Mayor De Blasio's East Midtown Zoning proposal is clearly better than former Mayor Michael Bloomberg's controversial rush-job.

Mayor De Blasio would change the zoning text for the five-block area on Vanderbilt Avenue from 42nd Street to 47th Street. In addition, a task force headed by Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and area Councilman Dan Garodnick would also study the future of the much larger East Midtown neighborhood.

The developer S. L. Green wants to build a towering skyscraper at East 42nd Street and Vanderbilt Avenue. Under the Mayor's proposal, Green would have to show that his building "provides specific, significant and upfront public infrastructure upgrades" in order to build a big building.

That should mean providing subway and streetscape improvements before his building brings thousands of new workers and tenants to this wildly congested area. And there's no "as of right" - it's a classic ULURP application, which should encourage more community benefits by the end of the process.

The devil is always in the details, so we reserve final judgment. But the Mayor's goals are in line with the those of city-wide transportation groups: Lead with congestion busting efforts, such as new entrances to Grand Central Terminal and open space on Vanderbilt Avenue.