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NYC Department of City Planning Scoping Meeting Testimony Regarding the New York Blood Center

December 15, 2020

Good Afternoon,

My name is Maria Free, and I am the Urban Planning and Policy Analyst for the New York Building Congress. The Building Congress is proud to support the New York Blood Center's proposal. As the city approaches the tenth month of the COVID-19 pandemic, Center East is a key step on the road to recovery.

The New York Building Congress has, for almost 100 years, advocated for investment in infrastructure, pursued job creation and promoted preservation and growth in the New York City area. Our association is made up of over 550 organizations comprised of more than 250,000 professionals. Through our members, events and various committees, we seek to address the critical issues of the building industry and promote the economic and social advancement of our city and its residents.

In our recent report, *NYC Checkup: An Examination of Healthcare and Life Sciences Construction*, which was released in July of this year, the Building Congress called for significant investment in state-of-the-art healthcare facilities and lab space. This essential infrastructure serves New Yorkers in times of need and is an economic engine for the city.

Aligned with these objectives, the Blood Center's proposal will strengthen our healthcare and pandemic response systems and create over 1,500 construction jobs and nearly 6,000 operations jobs. Building a larger, modern facility means the Blood Center can expand its research capacity, hire new staff, increase the number of companies it incubates and serve as an anchor tenant for a new life sciences hub.

Center East is a forward-looking project and will better position New York to face future crises and ensure the city continues world-renowned research and innovation. The Building Congress supports this proposal and cannot wait to see it become a reality.

Expanding the Blood Center's presence will help New York build back stronger.

Thank you.