



**OPENING REMARKS OF  
PRESIDENT LOUIS R. TOMSON  
FEDERAL HALL, NEW YORK  
JULY 16, 2002, 10:00A.M.**

Thank you. Good morning.

Before I discuss the process going forward, I want to take a moment to say what a privilege it's been to work so closely with the dedicated staff of the Port Authority over these last few months. As Chairman Sinagra pointed out, sometimes it's easy to lose sight of the fact that many of the men and women of the Port Authority are themselves survivors who lost friends and colleagues on September 11<sup>th</sup>. These remarkable individuals have worked tirelessly to rebuild our city. On behalf of the LMDC and all New Yorkers, I want to thank them.

Today marks an important milestone in the rebuilding effort, not simply because we have assembled six plans in this wonderful repository of our nation's history. Rather, because the public will now have an unprecedented opportunity to shape the plans – to change them, to comment on them, to refine them.

When the LMDC was first created, we vowed to conduct the most ambitious and comprehensive outreach campaign ever undertaken to engage the public. Up until today, much of that discussion has revolved around abstract concepts – the need for more open space, for better transportation, for a vibrant mixed-use community, and most importantly, for a fitting memorial.

But how do we accomplish these shared goals? That's the question we take the initial step toward answering today. The plans offer six different visions for how key elements can be represented on and off the site. On the surface, some of the subtle variations are not obvious, but look more closely, and you will see differences that are quite profound. For example, one envisions a memorial promenade as grand as the Washington Mall, opening a view corridor from the Memorial to the Statue of Liberty. Several plans illustrate variations on the common and compelling suggestion of a memorial quadrant that reserves the footprints and surrounding space for a memorial. Still others explore the possibility of reconnecting the street grid in varying configurations.

All of these plans represent a beginning, designed to spark an informed public debate about the future of Lower Manhattan. We have not considered all of the possibilities, nor have we discovered all the answers, but we're committed to seeking them out with the help of the public.

The LMDC has always believed that it's not enough to simply wait for public input; you have to aggressively encourage it.

So today we begin a new phase in our public outreach campaign that will be pursued on many different fronts. Starting at 2pm, a new LMDC web site will launch at [www.renewnyc.com](http://www.renewnyc.com) enabling the public to navigate the plans, explore the elements, and submit comments.

On Saturday at the Javits Center, the LMDC, the Civic Alliance, and the Port Authority are sponsoring one of the largest town hall forums ever assembled. As many as 5,000 people from all walks of life will come together to help shape the future of Lower Manhattan. We'll use the most sophisticated technology available to capture the input so it can be analyzed and incorporated.

Next Wednesday, in this rotunda, an exhibit will open enabling anyone who wants to see the plans to do so. What better place to contemplate our nation's future than the site where the Bill of Rights was conceived and where George Washington pledged to uphold them as the first President? A Ring of Remembrance will circle the rotunda, displaying the six plans and describing the elements they share in common. In the center will be a model of Lower Manhattan, a screen displaying three-dimensional images of the plans, and most importantly, a place for visitors to submit comments.

These are just some of the ways in which the LMDC and the Port Authority are seeking public input in new and imaginative ways. We're committed to fulfilling our mission through an open and inclusive process, built on collaboration and driven by a free exchange of ideas.

While it is too early to say what will one day rise from the World Trade Center site, we are certain of one thing: what we create together will be a testament to – and consistent with – the very principle that came under attack on September 11<sup>th</sup>: Democracy.

Thank you.