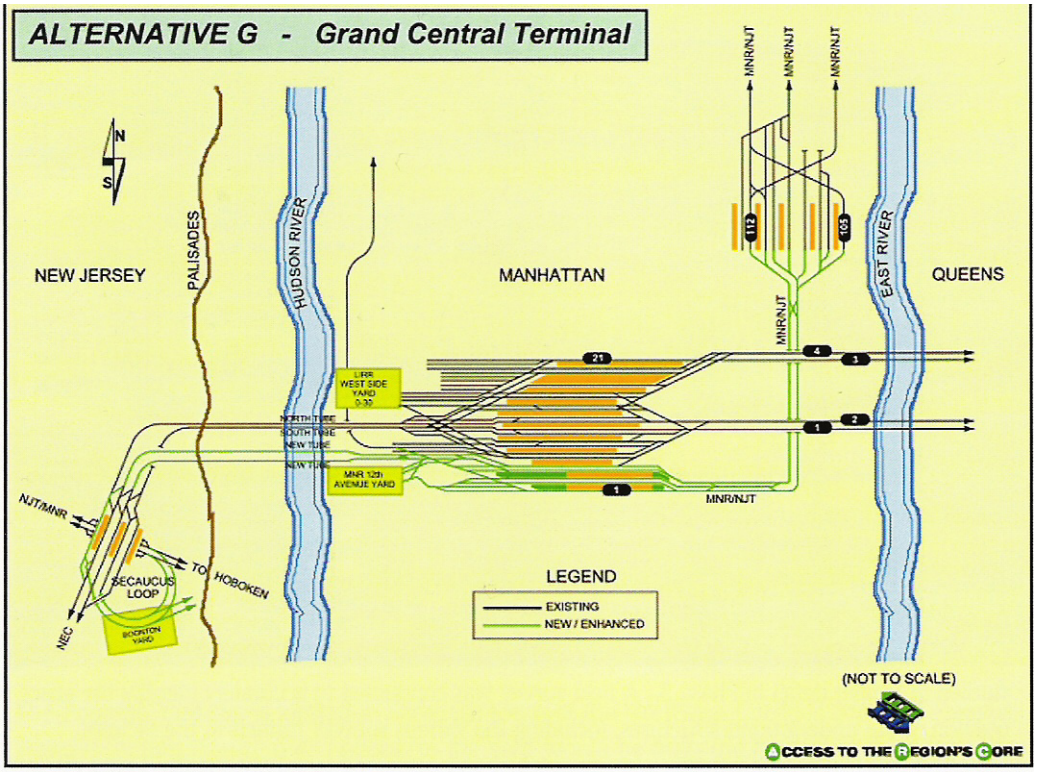

Penn Station – Grand Central Connection

Connecting the region's two key railway stations would be an important step in establishing a regional rail system. This plan evolved from a cooperative planning study for new Trans-Hudson rail capacity – "Access to the Region's Core" – a collaboration of NJ Transit, MTA and the Port Authority of NY & NJ. With this connection West of Hudson rail passengers could more easily reach Manhattan's East Side with its concentration of work places. Likewise, Bronx, Westchester, Mid-Hudson and Connecticut passengers could gain better access to the growing office concentrations in West Midtown. The Boston-Washington Northeast Corridor would be routed through Manhattan's two major activity centers, greatly improving its attractiveness, especially when competing for air shuttle travelers. New York's Empire Corridor trains could be routed through both stations continuing to points further south.

The key to this plan's success is for Metro-North and NJ Transit to closely cooperate. This means that to fully use new Trans-Hudson tunnel capacity, all trains using the connection must be through-routed.