

CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CCTA) TRANSIT CENTER (TC) PROJECT SUMMARY

Purpose & Need: The purpose of the CCTA Transit Center (TC) in Burlington is to replace the inadequate Cherry Street terminal with a modern passenger facility. The need for the new facility is driven by the current site's inability to: support existing ridership and service levels; provide a reasonable level of customer amenities (e.g., protection from weather, restrooms, heated/air conditioned waiting area, etc.); and, limit the number of buses crossing the Marketplace. The goals of the project are to: support improved transit operations; support increased ridership and enhanced service; and, promote economic development.

Funding and Development Process: The CCTA Transit Center project is primarily being funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which has a prescribed process that must be followed. That process includes several phases: (1) site selection & alternatives analysis; (2) preliminary engineering and environmental analysis (National Environmental Policy Act); (3) final design, which includes land acquisition and relocation of any displaced businesses or individuals; and, finally, (4) construction.

Status: The study is currently in Phase I of the development process, Site Selection & Alternatives Analysis. A broad net has been cast to identify all possible sites. Some of the sites were examined in earlier studies, some were recommended by the project team and/or City officials, and others were suggested by the project Advisory Committee or members of the public. In total, 37 sites were included on the list of potential site alternatives. During the initial screening process, each of those sites was evaluated against seven evaluation criteria. At the conclusion of the initial screening process, nine sites were recommended for further review and analysis as part of a secondary screening, which concluded on May 8, 2012 with the identification of a single site by the Transit Center Advisory Committee.

Reviews and Approvals: On three occasions during Phase I of the study process, the study team met with the Advisory Committee to seek their input on the sites being considered and the screening process being used. The Advisory Committee meetings were open to the public. In addition, the study team held a public meeting, and about fifty community meetings to inform the public and to obtain their input, suggestions and comments. A second public meeting will be held in May 2012. The final decision on the project will, however, rest with the CCTA Board of Commissioners.

Next Steps: At its May 8th meeting, the Advisory Committee unanimously endorsed the proposal that the Transit Center be located along St. Paul Street in a transit mall configuration with the Transit Center Building located at the intersection of Cherry and St. Paul Streets. On May 31, 2012, a public meeting/CCTA Board Meeting will be held to inform the public of the preferred alternative and obtain their feedback. CCTA's Board of Commissioners will vote in June to designate the preferred alternative. Following the CCTA Board vote, the study efforts will shift entirely towards Phase II, Environmental Analysis and Preliminary Engineering.

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