
Project:	Transit Center Study
Meeting:	Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
Date/Time:	July 27, 2023 9:00 am
Location:	Virtual, via Teams
Attendees:	See attached

Bart Rudolph with MOA Public Transportation Department (PTD) opened the meeting and the self-introductions were made.

Bart discussed the purpose of the project is to determine the appropriate location for the transit center for the next 10, 20, 30 years. The main transit center is in the 6th Avenue parking garage and the building is being re-developed. During construction, the transit center will need to be temporarily relocated. The plan is for the transit center to return to its location now is the perfect opportunity determine the appropriate location for the transit center. The study will be looking at downtown and midtown locations. And the study team will be looking to the PAC for help and guidance. The PAC is a group of technical experts with some connection to transit input will also be sought from the key stakeholders, the public, and the Transit Advisory Board.

Joann Mitchell with Kinney Engineering then reviewed the list of criteria that will be used to evaluate the various sites. The criteria assess three general categories: 1) Can the site function as a transit center? 2) Does this site make sense as a location for a transit center? and 3) Does this site have additional advantages?

- Ryan Yelle suggested that zoning be added to the criteria—is the site currently zoned for a transit center or can it be re-zoned? (*this will be added to “Can the site be easily developed” criteria*)
- Lance Wilber asked if the intention was to maintain the same operations?
 - A change in the location of the transit center will require a change in operations. A site that requires more extensive changes to the system will not be as desirable as one that requires fewer changes. However, all sites are worth consideration.
- When evaluating the sites, the team will need to consider plans for upgrades to the pedestrian facilities and not judge the site based solely on what is currently there
- One of the criteria is “site is located in a central area”. What does that mean?
 - An area that many people go to and through

The PAC was asked to review the list of criteria and send additional criteria to Joann.

Daniel Costantino with Jarrett Walker & Associates then led the group through a brainstorming discussion of potential sites. (see attached list).

- Site needs to be at least a city block in size, but likely less than 5 acres. Minimum curb length is 8 rest areas and 8 pickup/drop off spaces
- We are not concerned about a budget at this time. All options should be considered.

The MOA Real Estate department will be very helpful with their knowledge about land available for the transit center. Eklutna is a large landowner in Anchorage and they may know of other sites that are available.

The list of key stakeholder agencies that will be invited to participate at the stakeholders workshop in September was briefly reviewed.

PAC members were encouraged to send Joann additional ideas for locations and also stakeholders. (joann.mitchell@kinneyeng.com)

The next steps of the project and the schedule was discussed.

Next meeting will be at the end of August. At that meeting, the list of potential sites will be narrowed from ten or so down to five sites that can be presented to the stakeholders and the public. Those public meetings will begin in late September.

After the September/October public outreach, the list of five sites will be narrowed down to three sites. The three sites will be developed more thoroughly—conceptual site plans will be developed, cost estimates will be prepared, and the impacts to the system will be determined. These three sites and the detailed information will then be presented to the stakeholders and the public. From the feedback received, a final recommendation will be made. (The project will need to go through Public Site Plan Review. Many of the steps gone through as part of this study will be applied to that process).

Transit Center Study



Project Advisory Committee

Meeting – July 27, 2023

Date and Time: July 27, 2023, 9 AM – 10:30 AM

Location: Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams, [click here](#).

Please note: This meeting will be recorded to allow project staff to take notes.

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Bart Rudolph, MOA Public Transportation Department
 2. **Project Purpose and Role of the Project Advisory Committee** – Bart Rudolph, MOA Public Transportation Department
 3. **Discussion on Selection Criteria for Possible Transit Center sites** – Joann Mitchell, Kinney Engineering
 4. **Brainstorming on Potential Sites** – Daniel Costantino, Jarrett Walker & Associates
 5. **Discussion on Additional Resources for Information on Sites** – Daniel Costantino, Jarrett Walker & Associates
 6. **Project Schedule and Next Steps** – Daniel Costantino, Jarrett Walker & Associates
 7. **Next Meeting Date**
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Attachments

- Operational Requirements Memo

Name	Organization	Email	PAC #1 7/27/23
Lance Wilber	MOA Office of Economic & Community Development & Mayor's Office	lance.wilber@anchorageak.gov	X
Mike Robbins	Anchorage Community Development Authority (ACDA)	mrobbins@acda.net	X
Jenna Wright	Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC)	jwright@aedcweb.com	
Matt Stuart	Public Transportation Department (PTD)	Matthew.stuart@anchorageak.gov	X
Wes Renfrew	Public Transportation Department (PTD)	Wesley.renfrew@anchorageak.gov	X
Shane Locke	MOA Traffic Department	shane.locke@anchorageak.gov	X
Cynthia Ferguson	DOT&PF Traffic	cynthia.ferguson@alaska.gov	X
Ryan Yelle	MOA Planning Department	ryan.yelle@anchorageak.gov	X
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS	aaron.jongenelen@anchorageak.gov	X
Tiffany Briggs	MOA Real Estate Department	tiffany.briggs@anchorageak.gov	X
Jamie Acton	PTD	jamie.acton@anchorageak.gov	X
Randy Brown	PTD	randy.brown@anchorageak.gov	X
Bart Rudolph	PTD	bart.rudolph@anchorageak.gov	X
Daniel Costantino	JWA	daniel@jarrettwalker.com	X
Gavin Pritchard	JWA	gavin@jarrettwalker.com	X
Phoebe Bredlie	Kinney Engineering	Phoebe.Bredlie@kinneyeng.com	X
Lars Arneson	Kinney Engineering	Lars.Arneseon@kinneyeng.com	X
Joann Mitchell	Kinney Engineering	joann.mitchell@kinneyeng.com	X
Jeanne Bowie	Kinney Engineering	jeanne.bowie@kinneyeng.com	
Ashlee Weller	Kinney Engineering	ashlee.weller@kinneyeng.com	X

**Transit Center Site
Initial Evaluation Criteria**

1. Can this site function as a transit center?

Site can easily be acquired

Site can easily be developed (utilities, permits, demolition, zoning, seismic, DEC contaminated site, etc.)

Site can readily be approached and accessed by buses

Site can accommodate winter maintenance needs (space for snow storage/management)

Site large enough to accommodate existing needs for bus stops and layover spaces

Site can accommodate essential passenger amenities

Site can accommodate customer service office

Site can accommodate operator restrooms and break area

2. Does this site make sense as a location for a transit center?

Site is within a 1/4-mile of a large number of people and jobs

Site is located in a central area

Site does not require major changes to existing transit service

Site vicinity has good pedestrian infrastructure

Site is in an area that is active at many times of the day and throughout the week

3. Does this site have additional advantages?

Site large enough to accommodate future needs for bus stops and layover spaces (offers flexibility in layout)

Site can accommodate enhanced services and amenities

Site is near transit supportive land uses in a dense, mixed-use area (e.g. mix of residential, health, education, retail, public services etc.)

**Brainstorm list of potential sites for Transit Center
July 27, 2023**

Parcel Description	Area of town	Suggested by	Notes
Existing site	Downtown		
Chinook Lot, North of 3rd, C St - E St	Downtown	Lance Wilber Mike Robbins	Access issues (ingress/egress) Seismic issues
Old Native Hospital site (3rd & Ingra)	Downtown	Mike Robbins	
C St/Northern Lights/Benson (Arby's, GCI lot)	Midtown	Lance Wilber	Ped connectivity Land will be difficult to acquire
Johnson Tires bldg on Denali St	Midtown	Lance Wilber	Recently purchased? Plans to redevelop Denali St north of 36th Ave would be compatible with Transit Center on Denali St.
Old Northern Lights Inn on Northern Lights Blvd & Dawson	Midtown	Lance Wilber Mike Robbins	Site is ripe for redevelopment Trailer park across Benson is also ripe for redevelopment which could be very compatible with Transit Center
JC Penney warehouse (Arctic & 32nd)	Midtown	Jamie Acton	Recently sold?
National Archives Site (40th & Denali, south of library)	Midtown	Shane Locke	Planned for mixed-use (homes and retail)
West of Tudor/Elmore (Tozier track area)	UMED	Jamie Acton	"TED" parcel. Mixed use plans would complement Transit Center

Key Stakeholders (Organization/Agency)	
Access Alaska	Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education
ADA Advisory Commission	Health & Human Services Commission
Alaska Department of Health & Human Services	Houseless Lived Experience Advisory Board
Alaska Institute for Justice	Housing, Homeless, and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Commission
Alaska Mobility Coalition	JBER
Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC)	Lutheran Social Services
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority	Midtown Community Council
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce	MOA Homeless Coordinator
Anchorage Community Land Trust	MOA Human Services Department
Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH)	NAACP
Anchorage Downtown Partnership	NeighborWorks Alaska
Anchorage Faith & Action Coalition (AFACT)	Providence Medical Center
Anchorage Library	PTAB--invite all members
Anchorage Museum	RAIS (Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services)
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center	Rasmuson Foundation
Anchorage Parks Foundation	Senior Citizen's Advisory Commission
Anchorage School District	Shiloh Community Development, Inc.
Anchorage Senior Center	Southcentral Foundation
APU	Statewide Independent Living Council
Arc of Anchorage	University Community Council
Bike Anchorage	UAA
Bean’s Cafe	United Way of Anchorage
Campbell Park Community Council (if a site is within their boundary)	Visit Anchorage
Catholic Social Services	Youth Advisory Commission
Cook Inlet Housing Authority	YWCA Alaska
Cook Inlet Tribal Council	
Downtown Hope Center	
Covenant House	
Downtown Community Council	
Federation of Community Councils	

Table 1: Key Stakeholder