

# Appendix to the Public Outreach Phase One Summary Memo

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<b>Project:</b>	Transit Center Study
<b>Meeting:</b>	Downtown Community Council
<b>Date/Time:</b>	July 12, 2023, 5:30 pm
<b>Location:</b>	City Hall, Rm 155, Anchorage
<b>Attendees:</b>	Jeanne Bowie and Joann Mitchell with Kinney Engineering Bart Rudolph, Randy Brown, and Jamie Acton with Public Transportation Department

Approximately 15 people were in attendance.

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Jeanne Bowie introduced the project, providing an overview of the process and the schedule.

- Because the Transit Center will be temporarily relocated while the current location is being redeveloped, it is a good opportunity to evaluate the best site for the permanent location of the transit center.
- Two phase process. Phase 1 is to determine the requirements for the Transit Center with input from a Transit Advisory Committee. Using this information, a list of potential sites will be created.
- The list of sites will be presented to a group of stakeholders and the public in September. Based on feedback, that list will be narrowed down to about 3 sites.
- Phase 2: Those 3 sites will be developed further—conceptual site plans will be developed so rough cost estimates can be done and the impacts to the bus system as a whole will be determined.
- This information will be brought to the stakeholders and the public for their feedback in February/March. We recognize that all sites are going to have pros and cons. From that, a recommendation will be made.
- Sites to be considered will be in downtown or midtown. The existing location is still a possibility.
- The final report will be completed by May of next year.
- When a new transit center will be operational in a new location is dependent on many factors—this is just the very first step to answer the question if there should be a new location.
- We do not have a list of potential sites at this time.
- We acknowledge that taking away on-street parking impacts businesses.
- The project team will be back to visit the Community Council at various stages of the study and we ask the Community Council to appoint a representative to participate in the Stakeholder Workshops.

**Project:** Transit Center Study

**Meeting:** Midtown Community Council Board Meeting

**Date/Time:** July 20, 2023, 9:00 am

**Location:** 3111 Denali St, Suite 201, Anchorage

**Attendees:** Joann Mitchell with Kinney Engineering  
Randy Brown with Public Transportation Department

7 people were in attendance.

The Midtown CC does not meet in the summer; their next regular meeting will not be until September 13 so we presented to their board members.

Joann Mitchell introduced the project, providing an overview of the process and the schedule.

- Because the Transit Center will be temporarily relocated while the current location is being redeveloped, it is a good opportunity to evaluate the best site for the permanent location of the transit center.
- Two phase process. Phase 1 is to determine the requirements for the Transit Center with input from a Transit Advisory Committee. Using this information, a list of potential sites will be created.
- The list of sites will be presented to a group of stakeholders and the public in September. Based on feedback, that list will be narrowed down to about 3 sites.
- Phase 2: Those 3 sites will be developed further—conceptual site plans will be developed so rough cost estimates can be done and the impacts to the bus system as a whole will be determined.
- This information will be brought to the stakeholders and the public for their feedback in February/March. From that, a recommendation will be made.
  - Recommendation could be to continue to use the existing location or to not have a transit center at all.
- Sites to be considered will be in downtown, midtown, or U-Med District. We will be looking at sites where riders want to go (typically employment centers) and can travel to/from the center location relatively easily.
- It is a 14-month process.
- We do not have a list of potential sites at this time. It was brought up by the board members that in the past, the National Archives site at 40th and Denali was considered as was the University Center and the area adjacent to the Frontier Building (the triangular area where the A/C couplet splits—there is a coffee hut on the lot now).
- Board members asked what amenities might be included with the new transit center. What will it look like? Randy responded that that would be determined—it could be a multi-use facility with retail and restaurants (similar to what the downtown transit center once was) to a simple hub. It would depend on what the public wanted and what was available/who was interested in developing a multi-use center. The board members mentioned the safety issues and problems with the downtown transit center prior to the access being closed. Randy pointed out that there aren't any problems with the Dimond transit center so transit centers can be safe places.
- Randy mentioned the life of a transit center is typically 50 years, so the existing facility is reaching the end of that timeframe—another reason why now is a good time to study this.
- Jason Bergerson will represent the community council at the stakeholders workshop (bergerson.jason@gmail.com).

<b>Project:</b>	Transit Center Study
<b>Meeting:</b>	Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
<b>Date/Time:</b>	July 27, 2023 9:00 am
<b>Location:</b>	Virtual, via Teams
<b>Attendees:</b>	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 6<sup>th</sup> 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

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**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.*

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



<b>Transit Center Site Initial Evaluation Criteria</b>
<b>1. Can this site function as a transit center?</b>
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
<b>2. Does this site make sense as a location for a transit center?</b>
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
<b>3. Does this site have additional advantages?</b>
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**

# Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB)

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2023, 5:30–7:00 p.m.



## Call to Order

Ms. Sarah Preskitt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

## Roll Call

### PTAB Members Present

CB Brady  
Doug Miller  
Nathaniel Lackey  
Peter Hill  
Sarah Preskitt

### Citizens Present

Stewart Nagel  
Daniel Costantino (JWA)  
Jessie Doherty - SOA DPH  
Joann Mitchell  
Kyle Mielke

### PTAB Members Absent

Michael Williams  
Doug Miller  
Ric Nelson

After the roll call, it was identified that a quorum was not present. \*Mr. Ric Nelson's absence

## Approval of the Agenda

Without a quorum, the agenda could not be approved. The meeting continued as an information session.

## Public Involvement Announcement

Ms. Sarah Preskitt read the public involvement announcement.

## Action/Information Items

### **A. Minutes of the June 8, 2023, meeting (Action Item)**

Without a quorum, the June 8, 2023, minutes could not be approved.

### **B. Director's Update (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Ms. Jamie Acton.

### **C. Operations Update (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Wes Renfrew.

### **D. Transit Center Study (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Daniel Costantino from Jarrett Walker + Associates.

### **E. Announcement Update (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Randy Brown.

### **F. RideShare Program Update (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Bart Rudolph.

### **G. Ridership Update (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Nicholas Abugel and Ms. April White.

## **Public Comments**

Public comments received are as follows:

Kyle Mielke thanked everyone for the information provided he also noted that he liked the information about the RideShare program especially.

## **Member Comments**

Mr. CB Brady mentioned that he'd like to make an effort to focus on sidewalk accessibility during the winter, specifically on how the board can advocate for better sidewalk snow removal. He recommended setting up a small committee to discuss the issue in detail before the first snowfall this season.

Mr. Nathaniel Lackey mentioned that he's excited to be back at the board meetings. He expressed enthusiasm for learning more about the RideShare program and conveyed his liking for the new mStop application.

Mr. Peter Hill stated that he appreciated all the presentations and expressed support for CB's interest in discussing sidewalk snow removal.

Ms. Sarah Preskitt congratulated Janeen for her great work and added that she also wanted to extend her thanks to all the drivers for all their efforts. She also congratulated Mr. Wes Renfrew for his Supervisor of the Year award.

## **Adjournment**

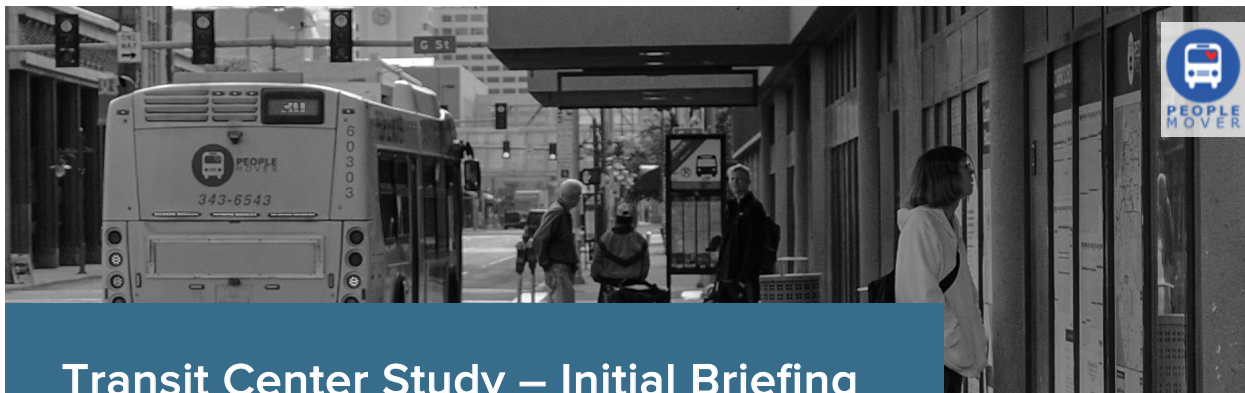
Without a quorum, this information session ended at 6:43 PM

The next PTAB meeting will be held on September 14, 2023, from 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Abugel  
Transit Planning Technician

*For details of the board's discussion, please refer to the recording of this meeting on the municipal website at <http://www.muni.org/Departments/transit/Pages/PublicTransitAdvisoryBoard.aspx>*



# Transit Center Study – Initial Briefing

Public Transit Advisory Board – Aug. 10, 2023

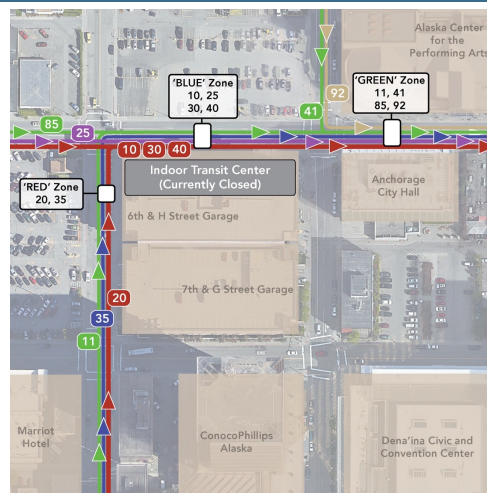
JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES



1

## Project Context

- The existing transit center is on a block of parking garages, owned by ACDA.
- Redevelopment plans at the site will require a temporary relocation.
- Envisioning whether a permanent relocation would make sense.



JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

2

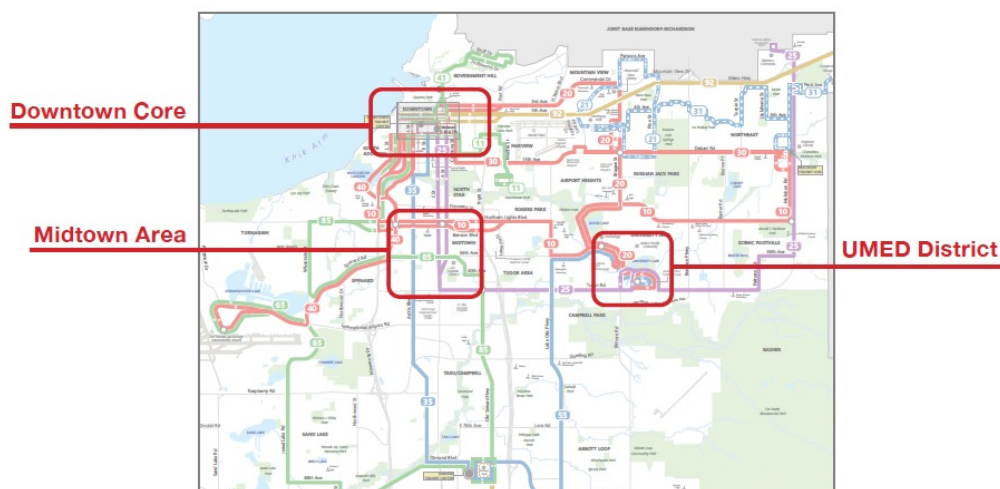
## Big Picture Options

- **Return to current site** after it's been redeveloped.
- Move to a different site **somewhere else Downtown**.
- Move **outside of Downtown**, in Midtown or UMED.

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

3

## Areas Under Consideration



JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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## Key Considerations

The transit center needs to be...

- Near many people and destinations.
- Where many bus lines meet.
- On a site that can accommodate easy pedestrian and bus access.
- On a site that can accommodate operator and passenger needs

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## PTAB's Role

- The project team will be asking for input and advice from PTAB at several points in the process.
- These are **marked in red** on the following slides.



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## Site Selection Process – Phase 1

- **Operational Requirements Memo**

Explains how the current site works, and what factors matter for a future site.

- **Initial Long List**

Developed with input from our Project Advisory Committee (PAC).

- **Short List**

Identifying the five most viable sites and key trade-offs.

- **Public and Stakeholder Consultation (mid-September to mid-October)**

Outreach to stakeholders and the public for input on the shortlisted sites.

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## Public and Stakeholder Coordination Activities

- Presentations and Updates to Community Councils, Project Advisory Committee and PTAB
- Interactive Stakeholder Workshops
  - Representatives from a broad range of service agencies, community councils, academic and health institutions, advocacy and other relevant groups
  - Phase 1 workshop will be Sept 20, we'd like PTAB members to participate
- Public Open Houses
  - Phase 1 – Online Open House
  - Phase 2 – Online and In-Person Open House

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# Site Selection Process – Phase 2

- **Narrowing Down Options (early November)**  
Identifying three preferred sites, based on public and stakeholder input.
- **Analyzing Alternatives**  
Developing the conceptual layout and service consequences for each preferred site.
- **Public and Stakeholder Consultation (March 2024)**  
Outreach to public and stakeholders for input on which site should be selected.
- **Final Site Selection (May 2024)**  
Final decision on site, and updates to proposed layout and service plan.

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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For more information and to sign up for the project email list, go to [www.AncTransitCenter.com](http://www.AncTransitCenter.com)



<b>Project:</b>	Transit Center Study
<b>Meeting:</b>	Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
<b>Date/Time:</b>	August 28, 2023 2:00 pm
<b>Location:</b>	Virtual, via Teams
<b>Attendees:</b>	See attached

Randy Brown with MOA Public Transportation Department (PTD) opened the meeting, explaining that the meeting goal was to choose 5 sites to present to the public from the 41 the project team analyzed. The location of the Transit Center will shape the transit system for the next 50 years.

Jeanne Bowie (Kinney Engineering) reminded the PAC of the criteria that were used to evaluate the sites and how the sites were scored. She then asked PAC members to enter the 5 sites they each preferred in the meeting “chat”.

Jeanne then asked the group some questions:

- Are there any of the highest ranked sites that have flaws that you are aware of?
  - Site 18: If H Street is closed to all traffic except buses, the parking garage would need to be reworked.
  - Sites 13 and 26: Both are dedicated parks, and would require vote of people to use in a different way.
  - Site 19: Expect public opposition to the demo work needed to put a transit center under this area.
- Are there any of the next tier of ranked sites that you believe should be ranked higher?
  - Site 17: The site should not score low due to seismic concerns. Of interest: parking lot is well-used by Conoco employees and Marriot patrons.
  - Site 8: ACDA owns this garage and is very willing to work with transit. While there may be some ingress/egress concerns, the site should be scored as easy to acquire and to develop. Score for pedestrian access should be yellow (not green), as this is one of the areas downtown with the most pedestrian concerns.
  - Site 32: Best location for bus access and near lots of jobs. Owner is interested in developing the site and including transit. Down side is that the area is very bad for pedestrians because they will have to cross 4-lane roads with high-speed cars to get anywhere.
  - Site 3 (Chinook Lot): The bus access in and out of the lot is appealing.
  - Site 7 (4<sup>th</sup> and Cordova, on street): The building is for sale, so there is the potential for redevelopment of the site.
  - Site 12 (Dimond parking lot): Appealing because it is near existing site, but buses would be off-street. Primarily scored low because of space constraints; if some on-street spaces were included, it could work, but it’s on the wrong side of the street for on-street on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
  - Site 21: This site has future development opportunities. Could partly block of D Street to make room.
  - Sites 36 & 37: Both of recently changed owners and are being redeveloped or will be soon. It is unlikely that they are acquirable.

Daniel next led the group through a discussion to try to identify five sites to present to the public.

- All agreed that no sites in the UMED area should be looked at further.
- The group next discussed Midtown opportunities. Daniel explained that we needed to choose two sites in the Midtown area (per direction from the administration)
  - Site 35 (Old DMV) scored well, and there was general agreement to include it
  - Site 32 (Old Northern Lights Inn), Site 33 (GCI Lot), and Site 30 were all discussed
  - New site (the business supply store building on A Street and Fireweed) was suggested. (Note: the project team later reviewed the site and determined it presented no advantages over other sites that were suggested earlier)

- Site 32 is favored by some due to owners who are interested in working with Transit and developing the property. Others very much object to this site because of the poor pedestrian access – and the fact that there are no plans for improvements in the next 20 years.
- The group next discussed Downtown opportunities.
  - Daniel asked if a site falling into Zone 4 seismic should be a fatal flaw. The PAC did not think so. Building in Zone 4 will add to the cost, but should not be a reason to reject it.
  - The sites where an underground facility under a park were suggested were next discussed. The PAC concluded that the Town Square Park and the Museum lawn are all considered assets to the extent that construction impacts would not be acceptable. Also, the Town Square Park is dedicated in the City Charter. It would require a vote of the people to change the charter to build a transit facility under the park. The softball field site is a possibility
  - Site 1 (the existing site), Site 18, and Site 20 are all just different options for the same thing. It was proposed that they be included as the existing site for the presentation to the public.
  - Site 8 was promoted as a site that would be easy to work with ACDA to use for transit.
  - Site 7 was discussed. The building and parking lot are potentially for sale.
  - Site 12 was discussed. There was some uncertainty that the owner would be a willing seller. There was some discussion about whether or not the site was too small.
  - Site 17 was discussed. It is currently in heavy use for parking, but is otherwise a great spot.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the PAC were told they would be sent a survey to finalize the five sites we will present to the public.

The PAC will meet again in October, after the public review of the 5 sites is closed.

# Transit Center Study



## Project Advisory Committee Meeting no. 2 – August 28, 2023

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**Date and Time:** August 28, 2023, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

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

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

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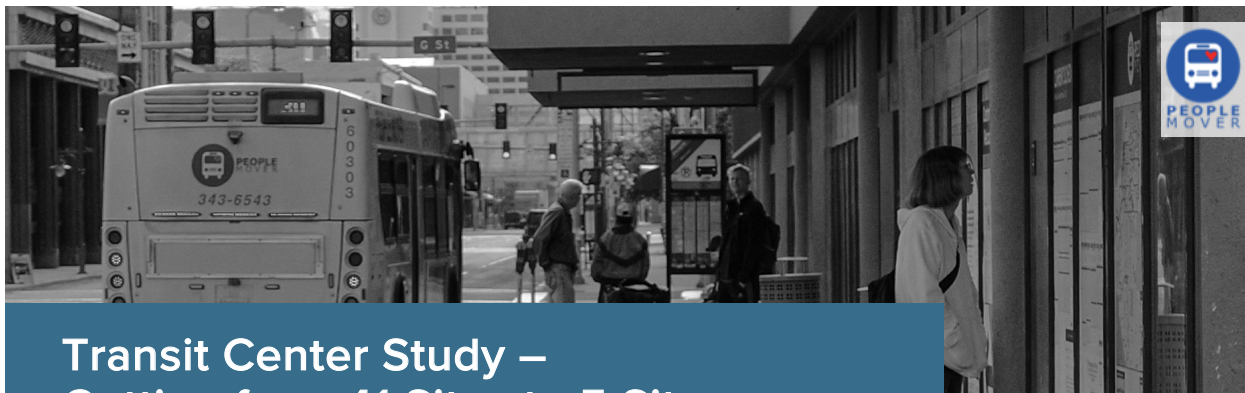
### Agenda

1. Introduction and Goals – Randy Brown, MOA Public Transportation Department
  2. Review Site Selection Process and Criteria – Jeanne Bowie, Kinney Engineering
  3. Discussion of “Possible” and “Marginal” Sites – Jeanne Bowie, Kinney Engineering
    - a. “Possible” sites – problems that would exclude any sites from the top 5?
    - b. “Marginal” sites – any sites that should be in the top 5?
  4. Narrowing it Down to Five Sites – Daniel Costantino, Jarrett Walker & Associates
  5. Project Schedule and Next Steps – Daniel Costantino, Jarrett Walker & Associates
  6. Next Meeting Date
- 

### Attachments

- Site Selection Criteria and Assessment (sent by e-mail Tues, 8/22)

Name	Organization	Email	PAC #2 8/28/23
Lance Wilber	MOA Office of Economic & Community Development & Mayor's Office	<a href="mailto:lance.wilber@anchorageak.gov">lance.wilber@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Mike Robbins	Anchorage Community Development Authority (ACDA)	<a href="mailto:mrobbins@acda.net">mrobbins@acda.net</a>	X
Jenna Wright	Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC)	<a href="mailto:jwright@aedcweb.com">jwright@aedcweb.com</a>	
Matt Stuart	Public Transportation Department (PTD)	<a href="mailto:Matthew.stuart@anchorageak.gov">Matthew.stuart@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Wes Renfrew	Public Transportation Department (PTD)	<a href="mailto:Wesley.renfrew@anchorageak.gov">Wesley.renfrew@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Shane Locke	MOA Traffic Department	<a href="mailto:shane.locke@anchorageak.gov">shane.locke@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Cynthia Ferguson	DOT&PF Traffic	<a href="mailto:cynthia.ferguson@alaska.gov">cynthia.ferguson@alaska.gov</a>	X
Ryan Yelle	MOA Planning Department	<a href="mailto:ryan.yelle@anchorageak.gov">ryan.yelle@anchorageak.gov</a>	
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS	<a href="mailto:aaron.jongenelen@anchorageak.gov">aaron.jongenelen@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Tiffany Briggs	MOA Real Estate Department	<a href="mailto:tiffany.briggs@anchorageak.gov">tiffany.briggs@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Jamie Acton	PTD	<a href="mailto:jamie.acton@anchorageak.gov">jamie.acton@anchorageak.gov</a>	
Randy Brown	PTD	<a href="mailto:randy.brown@anchorageak.gov">randy.brown@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Bart Rudolph	PTD	<a href="mailto:bart.rudolph@anchorageak.gov">bart.rudolph@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Daniel Costantino	JWA	<a href="mailto:daniel@jarrettwalker.com">daniel@jarrettwalker.com</a>	X
Gavin Pritchard	JWA	<a href="mailto:gavin@jarrettwalker.com">gavin@jarrettwalker.com</a>	X
Phoebe Bredlie	Kinney Engineering	<a href="mailto:Phoebe.Bredlie@kinneyeng.com">Phoebe.Bredlie@kinneyeng.com</a>	X
Lars Arneson	Kinney Engineering	<a href="mailto:Lars.Arneseon@kinneyeng.com">Lars.Arneseon@kinneyeng.com</a>	
Joann Mitchell	Kinney Engineering	<a href="mailto:joann.mitchell@kinneyeng.com">joann.mitchell@kinneyeng.com</a>	X
Jeanne Bowie	Kinney Engineering	<a href="mailto:jeanne.bowie@kinneyeng.com">jeanne.bowie@kinneyeng.com</a>	X
Ashlee Weller	Kinney Engineering	<a href="mailto:ashlee.weller@kinneyeng.com">ashlee.weller@kinneyeng.com</a>	X
Margaret Devlin	Kinney Engineering	<a href="mailto:margaret.devlin@kinneyeng.com">margaret.devlin@kinneyeng.com</a>	X



## Transit Center Study – Getting from 41 Sites to 5 Sites

Project Advisory Committee, Mtg 2 – Aug. 28, 2023

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES



1

## Welcome & Agenda

- Introduction and Goals
- Review Site Selection Process and Criteria
- Discussion of “Possible” and “Marginal” Sites
- Narrowing it Down to Five Sites
- Project Schedule and Next Steps
- Next Meeting Date

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2

## Site Selection Analysis

- **Operational Requirements Memo**

Explains how the current site works, and what factors matter for a future site.  
<https://anctransitcenter.com/documents/>

- **Criteria**

Developed with input from the Project Advisory Committee (PAC).

- **Criteria Thresholds**

Developed after our last meeting, prior to scoring any of the sites.

- **Analysis**

Scoring each site per the criteria thresholds that were established.

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3

## Changes to the Criteria

<b>1. Can this site function as a transit center?</b>
B. Site can easily be developed (utilities, permits, demolition, zoning, seismic, DEC contaminated site, slopes, etc.)
<b>2. Does this site make sense as a location for a transit center?</b>
L. Site vicinity has good pedestrian infrastructure and is ADA accessible

Look at future plans, as well as current or existing condition

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4



## Thresholds

20230822 Transit Center Study Step 1 Criteria.pdf

- Thresholds developed for all criteria and sub-criteria.
  - Based on Operational Requirements Memo
  - Measurable for 41 sites within a reasonable timeframe
  - Based on professional judgement or industry standard

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5

## Criteria Scoring

- Can this site function as a transit center?
- Does this site make sense as a location for a transit center?
  - (Red, -1) Site is less desirable than existing for this criteria or does not meet the minimum desirable criteria
  - (Yellow, 0) Site is similar to existing for this criteria, or site meets minimum desirable criteria
  - (Green, 1) Site is better than existing for this criteria, or site fully meets desirable criteria
- Does this site have additional advantages?
  - (Yellow, 0) Site comes close to meeting threshold for offering additional advantages
  - (Green, 1) Site has offers additional advantages under this criteria

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6

# Results

20230822 Ordered summary matrix.pdf

	Possible	Marginal	Unlikely	Fatal Flaw
Number of sites	7	23	5	6
Score range	10 to 13 (top 20%)	1 to 9	-5 to 0	N/A – scored red for criteria I

More detail: 20230822 By Site Information.pdf

## What are your top 5 sites?

- Please type the site numbers of the sites you selected in the chat

## Possible Sites – Fatal Flaws?

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## Marginal Sites – Consider with Possible?

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10

## Selection of top 5

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## Next Steps

- **Public and Stakeholder Consultation (mid-September to mid-October)**  
Outreach to stakeholders and the public for input on the shortlisted sites.

- **Narrowing Down Options (early November)**

Identifying three preferred sites, based on public and stakeholder input. (Next PAC Meeting: Friday, October 27)

- **Analyzing Alternatives**

Developing the conceptual layout and service consequences for each preferred site.

- **Public and Stakeholder Consultation (March 2024)**

Outreach to public and stakeholders for input on which site should be selected.

- **Final Site Selection (May 2024)**

Final decision on site, and updates to proposed layout and service plan.

**Stakeholder workshop**  
Wednesday, September 20  
9 AM to Noon  
Loussac Library  
"Community Commons Room"

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For more information and  
to sign up for the project  
email list, go to  
[www.AncTransitCenter.com](http://www.AncTransitCenter.com)



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<b>Project:</b>	Transit Center Study
<b>Meeting:</b>	Downtown Community Council
<b>Date/Time:</b>	Sept 6, 2023, 5:30 pm
<b>Location:</b>	City Hall, Rm 155, Anchorage
<b>Attendees:</b>	Jeanne Bowie with Kinney Engineering Approximately 15 people were in attendance at the time of the presentation.*

---

Jeanne Bowie gave an update on the project and a handout was provided.

- The Operational Requirements Memo has been completed. This memo describes the general needs of the transit center. It should:
  - Serve an area with many people and jobs
  - Be easily accessed by buses and by pedestrians (including those in wheelchairs)
- The consultant team developed criteria for evaluating sites that considered if the site can function as a transit center (ease of acquisition, ease of development, etc), does its location make sense for a transit center (close to people and jobs, impacts to existing transit system, etc), and does the site offer additional advantages (large enough for future needs or enhanced services and amenities).
- The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) identified 41 potential sites for consideration (27 downtown, 10 in midtown, 4 in UMED area).
- The project team is narrowing the list down to 5 sites. These five sites will be presented to the public in September.
  - Stakeholders Workshop on Sept 20. Your community council will be represented at the Stakeholders Workshop.
  - Online Open House from Sept 20 to Oct 20
    - The public will be able to comment and vote on the five sites through the Open House
- After the public comment period, the list of potential sites will be narrowed down to three. These three sites will be further developed, and another round of public outreach will occur in February/March.

*\* Note we were at the end of a very full agenda so many people had left the meeting by the time they got to us.*

---

<b>Project:</b>	Transit Center Study
<b>Meeting:</b>	Spenard Community Council
<b>Date/Time:</b>	Sept 6, 2023, 7:00 pm
<b>Location:</b>	Spenard Rec Center, Anchorage
<b>Attendees:</b>	Joann Mitchell with Kinney Engineering Randy Brown with MOA Public Transportation Department Approximately 20 people were in attendance

---

The project wasn't on the meeting agenda so Joann Mitchell gave a very quick overview of the project at the end of meeting during the Community Announcements. Handouts with project information were distributed.

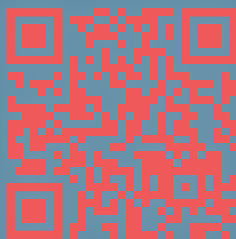
- The purpose of the project is to determine the best location for the transit center. Sites being considered include downtown, Spenard, Midtown, and UMed, in addition to the existing site.
- The reason why this is being done now is because the current transit site is being temporarily relocated while that site is being redeveloped. The transit center could go back to its current location but now is a good time to ask if there isn't a better site.
- The project team started out with 41 sites in downtown, Spenard, Midtown, and UMed and we are now narrowing it down to 5; one of the possible sites is in the Spenard CC area.
- These five sites will be presented to the public in September.
  - Stakeholders Workshop on Sept 20. We need a representative from the Spenard community to participate.
  - Online Open House from Sept 20 to Oct 20
    - The public will be able to comment and vote on the five sites through the Open House
- After the public comment period, the list of potential sites will be narrowed down to three. These three sites will be further developed, and another round of public outreach will occur in February/March.
- We'll be back with a full presentation at the October community council meeting.

# Transit Center Study

## (Public Transportation Department)

### How to Get Involved

- Sign up to receive emails on the project website



Explore our website

- Participate in Online Open House (September 20 through October 20)
- Submit your thoughts and comments through the Online Open House or through the project website

In addition, a representative from your community council will attend the stakeholder meetings.

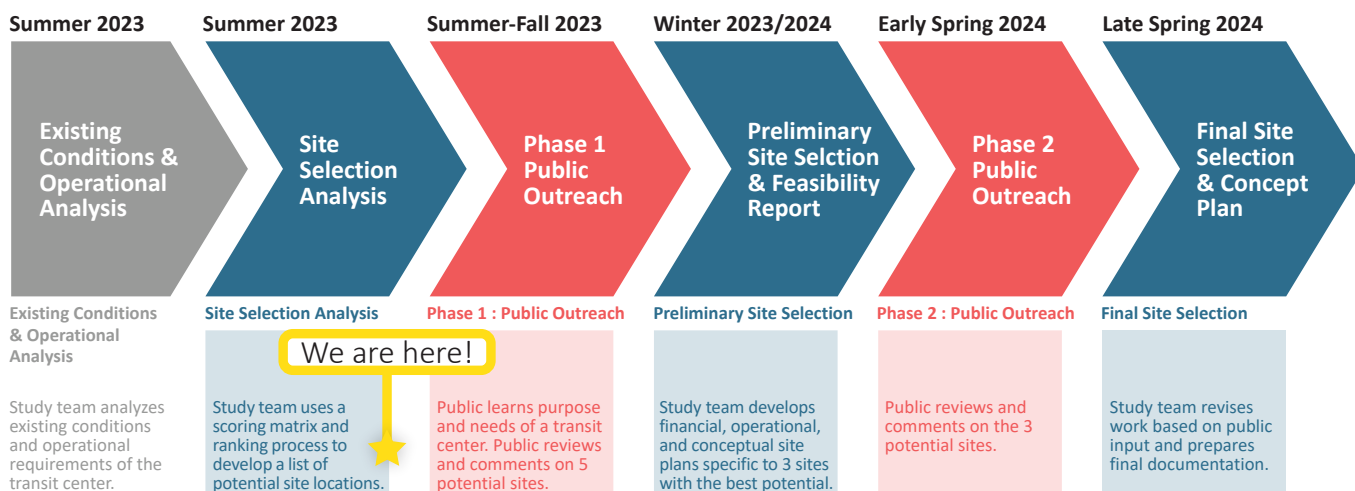
### Purpose of Study

The existing transit center is located in downtown Anchorage on 6th Avenue between H Street and G Street. The site is slated for a redevelopment project and the transit center will be temporarily relocated during construction. The Public Transportation Department (PTD), which manages People Mover, is taking this opportunity to consider whether the current site is in fact the best location for the transit center or if there is a better location? This study will answer that question through an in-depth evaluation coupled with dynamic public engagement, considering the benefits and trade-offs of moving the transit center to a different site either downtown or in midtown.

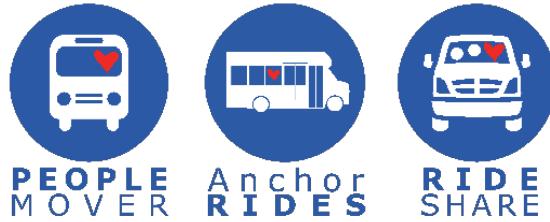


### Activity to Date

- **July 2023** – Operational Requirements Memo describes the general needs of the transit center. It should:
  - Serve an area with many people and jobs
  - Be visible and active most times of day & night
  - Be easily accessed by buses
  - Be easily accessed on foot (including by wheelchair)
- **July 2023** – Initial meeting of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to discuss potential sites and the criteria for evaluating them. 41 sites were identified for initial evaluation (27 downtown, 10 midtown, 4 UMED).
- **August 2023** – Second PAC meeting to review evaluation of 41 sites and identify 5 sites to present to the public.







**Municipality of Anchorage  
Public Transit Advisory Board  
Meeting Agenda  
September 14, 2023; 5:30-7:00 P.M.**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda**
- 4. Public Involvement Announcement:**

Audience participation at this meeting is limited to the Public Comments section of the agenda. However, the Chair may open any agenda item for public comment. Written comments will be addressed first, then verbal comments on a first-recognized basis by the Board Chair. Each commenter should state their name so it can be recorded in the minutes. Commenters will have two minutes to speak on each agenda item they wish to comment on. If you used the call-in number, please mute yourself when not speaking by dialing \*6. A recording is being made of this meeting and will be posted on the Municipal website.

- 5. Action / Information Items**

1. Minutes of the June 8, 2023, Meeting (Action Item)
2. Minutes of August 10, 2023, Meeting (Action Item)
3. Director's Update (Information Item)
4. Operations Update (Information Item)
5. Service Change Update (Information Item)
6. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Presentation (Information Item)
7. Transit Center Study (Information Item)
8. Rider Survey (Information Item)
9. Ridership Update (Information Item)

- 6. Public Comments** [2 minutes each]
- 7. Member Comments**
- 8. Adjournment**

**Next PTAB Meeting Date:**

PTAB Regular Meeting – Thursday, October 12, 2023

The Municipality of Anchorage does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion or disability in access to, or operation of its programs, services, activities or in its hiring or employment practices. Title VI inquiries should be forwarded to [titlevi@muni.org](mailto:titlevi@muni.org) or 907.343.8246. PTAB meetings are audio recorded. The AMATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process is used to satisfy the public participation process of the Program of Projects (POP) that is required in U.S.C. Section 5307.

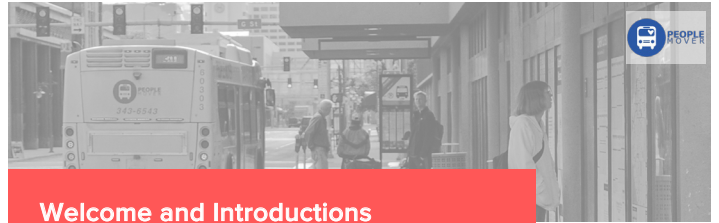


## Transit Center Study

Stakeholder Workshop – Sep. 20, 2023

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

1



## Welcome and Introductions

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2

## Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Context
- What Makes a Good Transit Center Site?
- Interactive Exercise: Downtown vs. Midtown
- 5 sites under consideration
- Polling
- Next Steps

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3

## Your Role in Today's Workshop

- You represent key community stakeholders.
- This is an opportunity to learn about the issues and the sites being considered.
- You are in a good position to help get the message out about this effort.
- Your input can help People Mover make the right choices.



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4

## Round of Introductions

- Please let us know your name, and the organization you are representing today

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5



## Project Context

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## Why consider moving the transit center?

- The existing transit center is on a block of parking garages, owned by ACDA.
- Redevelopment plans at the site will require a temporary relocation.
- Envisioning whether a permanent relocation would make sense.



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## People Mover's Role in the Community

**Public transit provides access to opportunity** for people who cannot, should not, or don't want to drive.

By doing so, public transit replaces some car trips.

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## Won't technology make buses obsolete?

**Driverless taxis might replace transit someday, but**

- They are far from being affordable.
- They are not ready for winter.
- If they are easy and cheap enough to replace transit, they will generate far more congestion.

9

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## What makes transit useful?

- People use transit only if transit is useful.
- Transit is useful if many people:
  - find that it provides access to many destinations
  - can use it in an amount of time they have in their day.

10

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## What is access?

Here is a person.



11

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## What is access?

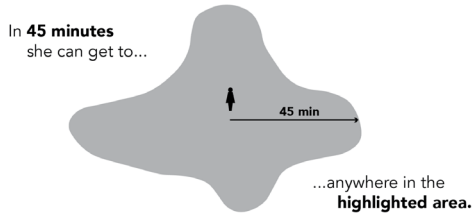
She is in a city full of possible destinations.



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## What is access?



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## What is access?

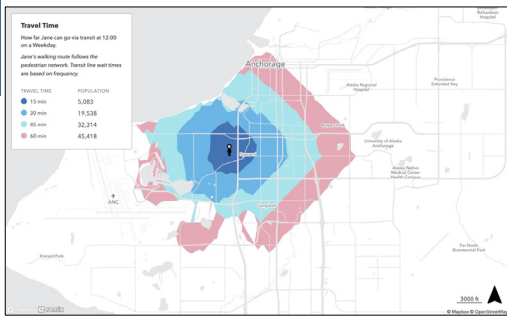


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## Anchorage Example

**Without Transit**  
Here's how far someone can go on foot.

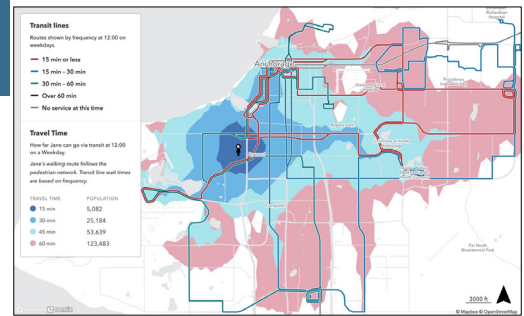


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## Anchorage Example

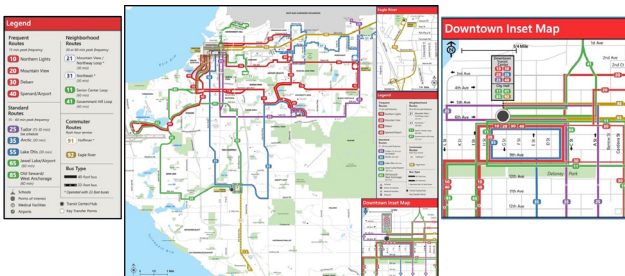
**With Transit**  
Here's how far someone can go, walking and taking the bus.



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## The People Mover Network



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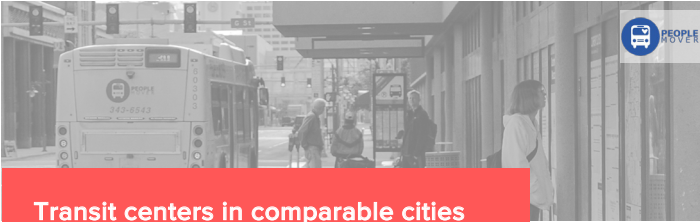
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## Three Roles of a Transit Center

- Enable large numbers of people to change buses to complete trips across the network.
- Provide end-of-line layover and break time for drivers.
- A visible and welcoming "front door" for the network.

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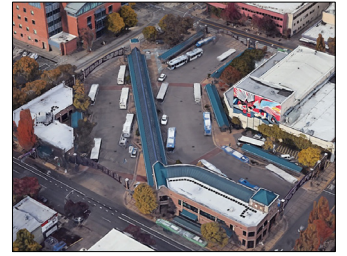


Transit centers in comparable cities

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### Eugene Station (Eugene, OR)



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### Eugene Station (Eugene, OR)



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### Eugene Station (Eugene, OR)

- 18 off-street bus bays
- 2 bus stops on adjacent streets
- 2 acres (most of a 330x330 ft block)
- Operator break rooms and customer service facilities
- Convenience store and multiple other businesses in adjacent building

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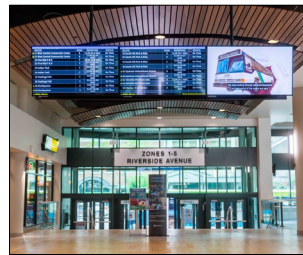
### The Plaza (Spokane, WA)



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### The Plaza (Spokane, WA)



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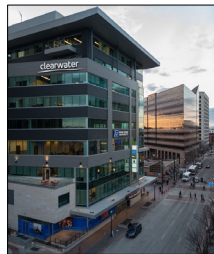
## The Plaza (Spokane, WA)

- 9 on-street bus bays, plus 3 on adjacent blocks
- Wraps around a 1.5 acre (200x300 ft) city block
- Indoor waiting area
- Space for community events.
- Businesses inside the building and in adjacent building
- Covered walkways to buildings across the street.

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## Main Street Station (Boise, ID)



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boisestatepublicradio.org

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## Main Street Station (Boise, ID)



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## Main Street Station (Boise, ID)

- 9 bus routes stop in an underground facility
- 5 bus routes stop on-street at surface level
- Under a building with a 150 ft x 250 ft (< 1 acre)
- Underground stops allow for indoor waiting
- Controlled access to bus stop area, must have a bus ticket
- Customer help desk, bike storage and variety of other services available on site

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## Bus Interchange - Christchurch, New Zealand



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## Bus Interchange - Christchurch, New Zealand



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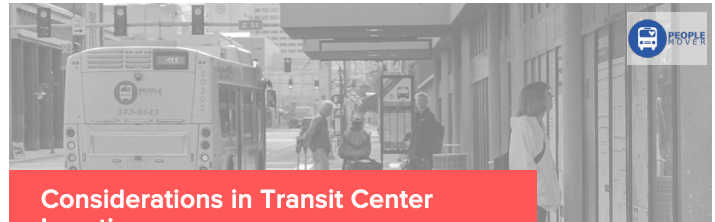
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## Bus Interchange - Christchurch, New Zealand

- City of 377,000, main city of South Island.
- 16 indoor bus bays with platform doors.
- 4.5 acre off-street site (about 400x500 ft)
- Large climate-controlled indoor waiting area.
- Multiple retail spaces.

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www.fish.gov  
31



## Considerations in Transit Center Location

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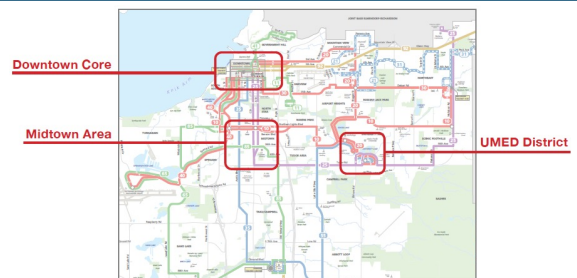
## Big Picture Options

- **Return to current site** after it's been redeveloped.
- Move to a different site **somewhere else Downtown.**
- Move **outside of Downtown.**

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## Areas Considered



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## Impacts of a Potential Relocation

Bringing many routes to one place makes this location very accessible by transit. This argues for locating close to:

- Many residents, jobs and other opportunities.
- A wide variety of public, social, health and other services.

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## Impacts of a Potential Relocation

The function of a transit center has specific very local impacts, which may include:

- Parking.
- Perceptions of public safety.
- Benefits or disadvantages for various kinds of business.

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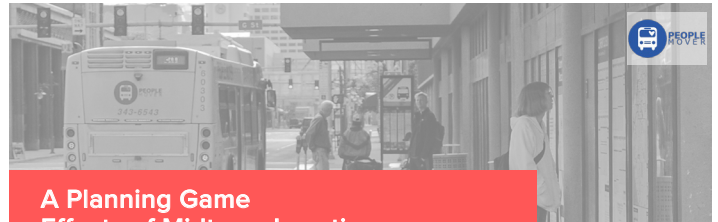
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## Larger Impacts Felt Citywide

- The location of the transit center impacts where buses need to go.
- This impacts which transit trips can be direct, and which trips require transfers. As a result, **relocating the transit center may impact the usefulness of public transit in many neighborhoods.**
- The impacts of this decision will be felt for a long time. The new transit center will be used for several decades.

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## A Planning Game Effects of Midtown Locations

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES KINNEY

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## Your Job: Design a Network for a Midtown TC

- In this game, we'll pretend the city has decided to move the transit center to a new location in Midtown.
- You work for People Mover. Your job is to figure out how to re-route all the buses, while still serving all the same places.
- We are visiting transit experts who can help you with the technical stuff.
  - **Feel free to ask questions!**

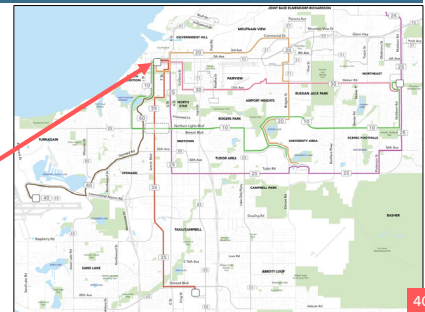
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## The Game Board

The six most important routes are represented with waxed sticks.

These routes converge on the **existing transit center.**



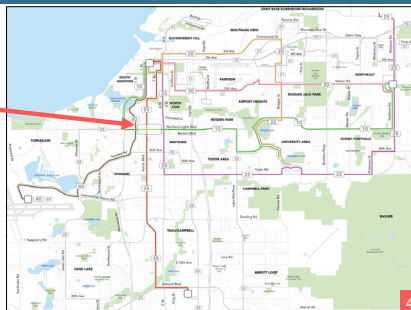
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## Your Goal

Move the waxed sticks around so all six routes converge at a **new transit center** here.

Assume Arctic & N Lights.



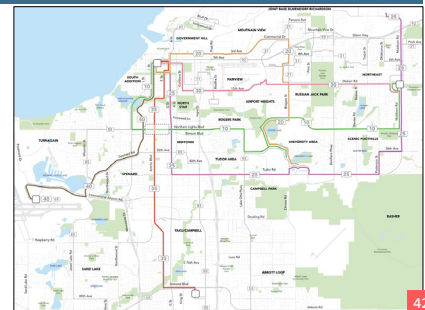
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## Game Rules

**You can trade** a stick for a stick of any other color (to make lines shorter or longer).

**No new money.** You can't get more sticks!



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### As you do this, think about ...

- What trips become faster with this change, and what trips become slower?
- Who benefits, and who loses out?

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### As you play, feel free to ask questions!

- One-way streets: don't worry about them.
- If a stick is longer than you need, just fold the end back.

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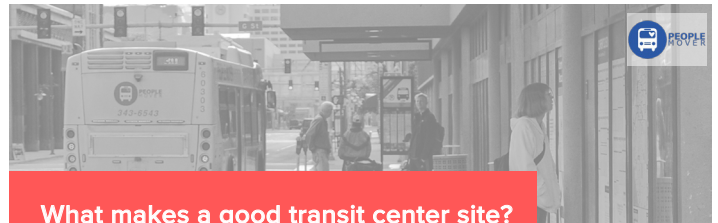
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### Wrapping Up

1. Press down firmly on the sticks so they stay attached when you pick up the map.
2. Bring the maps to the wall and we will help post them.
3. Take a break to study the maps. We'll ask your opinions about them.
4. Five minutes after the last map goes up, we'll sit down again and discuss.
5. At that point, sit where you can see the maps! You do not need to remain at your tables.

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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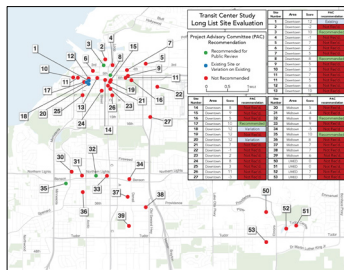
What makes a good transit center site?

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES KINNEY

46

### Site Longlists and Evaluation

- Worked with Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to develop initial longlist of 41 sites to be evaluated.
- Technical evaluation created an initial suitability ranking.
- Final sites recommendations selected with the PAC.



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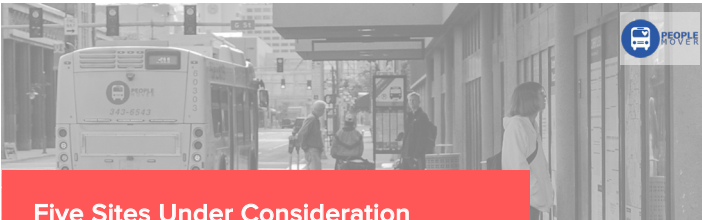
47

### Evaluation Criteria. The transit center should be located on a site that's:

- **Available, easy to develop and large enough for:**
  - Bus stops, bus parking, and circulation
  - Passenger and operator facilities
  - Snow management
- **Near many destinations** and people.
- **Safe and easy to access**, especially for people on foot.

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## Five Shortlisted Sites

- 3 in Downtown
  - A - ConocoPhillips Parking Lot – 6<sup>th</sup> Ave & H St
  - B - Chinook Parking Lot – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave & E St
  - C - 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Garage - 5<sup>th</sup> Ave & B St
- 2 in Midtown
  - D - Previous Northern Lights Inn – 598 W Northern Lights Boulevard
  - E - Previous DMV Site - 1300 W Benson Boulevard
- Returning to the Existing Site (6<sup>th</sup> & G St) is also an option.

## Five Sites Under Consideration

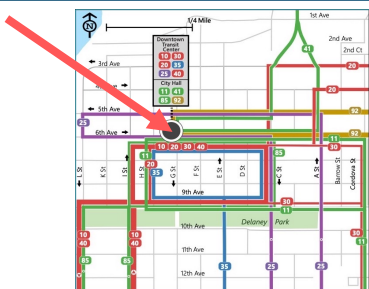
JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES KINNEY

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## Existing Transit Center Site (Downtown) West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue between H Street and G Street



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## Existing Transit Center Site (Downtown) West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue between H Street and G Street



Looking south from W 6th Ave

Looking south from the intersection of H St and W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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## Existing Transit Center Site (Downtown) West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue between H Street and G Street

- Would remain on-street transit, bus stops and layover may move. Next phase of study would study the best possible layout.
- Would include new customer service office, passenger waiting area, and bus operator break area.

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## Existing Transit Center Site (Downtown) West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue between H Street and G Street

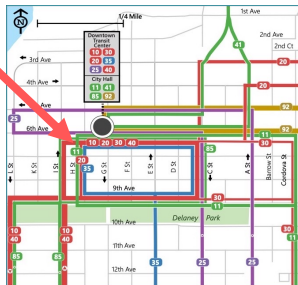
Does this site meet the needs for a transit center?		
++	Plenty of space	If the transit system grows, new stops or layover spaces could be added on adjacent streets.
+++	Near people and jobs	Located in an area of high density employment
+++	Safe and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊕ Highly visible</li> <li>⊕ Walkable</li> <li>⊕ Easy access for buses</li> </ul>
?	Supported by the community	Let us know your thoughts below!

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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### Site A – ConocoPhillips Parking Lot Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, H and I St

Across H Street  
from the current  
site



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### Site A – ConocoPhillips Parking Lot (Downtown) Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, H and I St



Looking east from H St

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES



Looking south from W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave

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### Site A – ConocoPhillips Parking Lot (Downtown) Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, H and I St

- Likely to be off-street, requiring most of the surface area on that block.
- Will require an agreement with the current private owner.
- Opportunity to imagine redevelopment that includes more than just the transit center itself.

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### Site A – ConocoPhillips Parking Lot (Downtown) Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, H and I St

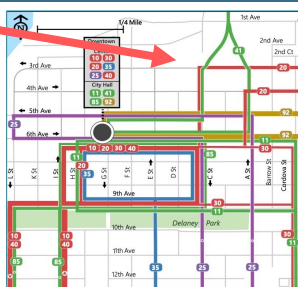
Does this site meet the needs for a transit center?		
++	Plenty of space	The site is about 2 acres. It could accommodate some additional bus stops and layover spaces, and there would be modest opportunities for transit-supportive commercial, office, or residential uses.
+++	Near people and jobs	Located in an area of high density employment.
+++	Safe and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ Off-street, and so less visible</li> <li>⊕ Walkable</li> <li>⊕ Easy access for buses</li> </ul>
?	Supported by the community	Let us know your thoughts below!

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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### Site B – Chinook Parking Lot (Downtown) 225 E Street

North of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave,  
between C and E  
streets



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### Site B – Chinook Parking Lot (Downtown) 225 E Street



Looking south from the Chinook Parking Lot

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES



Looking east from W 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave

60

### Site B – Chinook Parking Lot (Downtown) 225 E Street

- Would most likely be off-street.
- Site belongs to ACDA.
- Zone 4 seismic: higher geotechnical engineering requirements may limit redevelopment possibilities.

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### Site B – Chinook Parking Lot (Downtown) 225 E Street

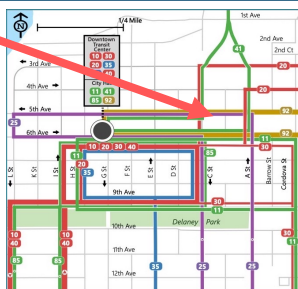
Does this site meet the needs for a transit center?		
+++	Plenty of space	The site is over 4 acres. It could accommodate additional bus stops and layover spaces, and there would be ample opportunities for transit-supportive commercial, office, or residential uses.
++	Near people and jobs	Located in an area of medium density employment.
+++	Safe and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ Off-street, and so less visible</li> <li>⊕ Walkable</li> <li>⊕ Easy access for buses</li> </ul>
?	Supported by the community	Let us know your thoughts below!

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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### Site C – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Garage (Downtown) West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between B Street and C Street

Across 5<sup>th</sup> & C St  
from the Fifth  
Avenue Mall



JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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### Site C – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Garage (Downtown) West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between B Street and C Street



Looking east from the intersection of C St and W 5<sup>th</sup> Ave



Looking west from W 5<sup>th</sup> Ave

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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### Site C – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Garage (Downtown) West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between B Street and C Street

- Would be on-street, potentially similar to the existing transit center.
- Bus stops and layover spaces likely to eliminate parking on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and B St.
- Would include new customer service office, passenger waiting area, and bus operator break area.

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### Site C – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Garage (Downtown) West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between B Street and C Street

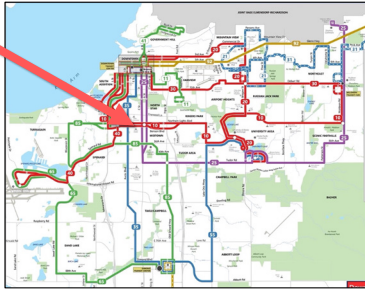
Does this site meet the needs for a transit center?		
++	Plenty of space	If the transit system grows, new stops or layover spaces could be added on adjacent streets.
+++	Near people and jobs	Located in an area of high density employment.
++	Safe and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊕ Highly visible</li> <li>⊕ Walkable</li> <li>⊖ One-way streets make access challenging for buses</li> </ul>
?	Supported by the community	Let us know your thoughts below!

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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**Site D – Previous Northern Lights Inn (Midtown)**  
598 W Northern Lights Boulevard

Between Northern Lights and Benson, about halfway between Arctic and C



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**Site D – Previous Northern Lights Inn (Midtown)**  
598 W Northern Lights Boulevard



Looking northeast from W Benson Blvd



Looking southwest from W Northern Lights Blvd

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**Site D – Previous Northern Lights Inn (Midtown)**  
598 W Northern Lights Boulevard

- Would most likely be off-street.
- Will require an agreement with the current private owner.
- Would require significant change to the existing transit system.
- Opportunity to imagine redevelopment that includes more than just the transit center itself.

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**Site D – Previous Northern Lights Inn (Midtown)**  
598 W Northern Lights Boulevard

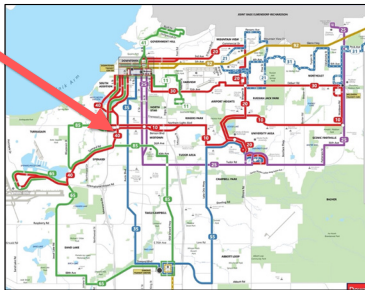
Does this site meet the needs for a transit center?		
++	Plenty of space	The site is about 2 acres. It could accommodate some additional bus stops and layover spaces, and there would be modest opportunities for transit-supportive commercial, office, or residential uses.
++	Near people and jobs	Located in an area of medium density employment.
+	Safe and accessible	⊖ Off-street, and so less visible ⊖ Pedestrian infrastructure in the area is very poor and efforts to make improvements have not been successful ⊕ Easy access for buses
?	Supported by the community	Let us know your thoughts below!

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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**Site E – Previous DMV Site (Midtown)**  
1300 W Benson Boulevard

Near intersection of Benson & Spenard



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**Site E – Previous DMV Site (Midtown)**  
1300 W Benson Boulevard



Looking south from W Benson Blvd



Looking west from Spenard Rd

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## Site E – Previous DMV Site (Midtown)

1300 W Benson Boulevard

- Would be off-street.
- Will require an agreement with the current private owner.
- Would require significant change to the existing transit system.
- Potential opportunity to imagine redevelopment that includes more than just the transit center itself.

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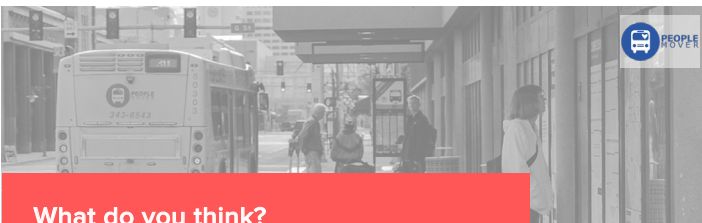
## Site E – Previous DMV Site (Midtown)

1300 W Benson Boulevard

Does this site meet the needs for a transit center?		
+++	Plenty of space	The site is over 2 acres. It could accommodate additional bus stops and layover spaces, and there would be modest opportunities for transit-supportive commercial, office, or residential uses.
++	Near people and jobs	Located in an area of medium density employment.
+++	Safe and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ Off-street, and so less visible</li> <li>⊕ Walkable; recent improvements along Spensard Road makes this one of the more accessible sites in Midtown</li> <li>⊕ Comfortable access for buses</li> </ul>
?	Supported by the community	Let us know your thoughts below!

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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What do you think?

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES KINNEY

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## Polling: Downtown vs. Midtown

Do you think People Mover should focus more on a Downtown or a Midtown site?

1. Downtown.
2. Midtown.
3. Both are good options.
4. Not sure.

**Discussion: why?**

JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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## Polling: Downtown Sites

Which is your favorite Downtown site?

1. ConocoPhillips Lot.
2. Chinook Lot.
3. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Garage.
4. Existing Location.

**Discussion: why?**

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## Polling: Midtown Sites

Which is your favorite Midtown site?

1. Old Northern Lights Inn.
2. Old DMV.

**Discussion: why?**

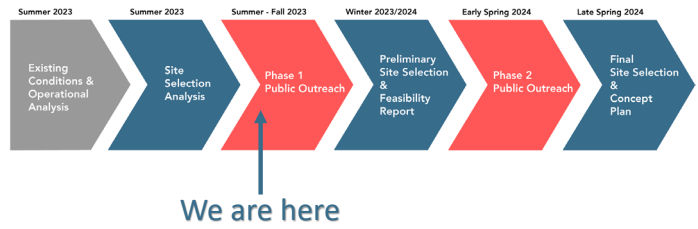
JARRETT WALKER + ASSOCIATES

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Process and Next Steps

Transit Center Study Process



Let People Know!

- Project Website: [www.anctransitcenter.com](http://www.anctransitcenter.com)
- People can provide input in the Online Open House
- Make sure to provide input by Oct. 20!

What Happens Next

- **Narrowing down to three sites**  
Based on public and stakeholder input.
- **Analyzing how each site works**  
Developing the conceptual layout and service consequences for each preferred site.
- **Public and stakeholder consultation no. 2**  
Which site does the public prefer?



For more information and to sign up for the project email list, go to [www.AncTransitCenter.com](http://www.AncTransitCenter.com)



Thank You!

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<b>Project:</b>	Transit Center Study
<b>Meeting:</b>	Spenard Community Council
<b>Date/Time:</b>	Oct 4, 2023, 7:00 pm
<b>Location:</b>	The Nave, Anchorage
<b>Attendees:</b>	Jeanne Bowie with Kinney Engineering Randy Brown with MOA Public Transportation Department Approximately 20 people were in attendance

---

Jeanne Bowie gave an update on the project and a handout was provided. Randy Brown provided additional comments.

- The purpose of the project is to determine the best location for the transit center. Sites being considered include downtown, Spenard, Midtown, and UMed, in addition to the existing site.
- The reason why this is being done now is because the current transit site is being temporarily relocated while that site is being redeveloped. The transit center could go back to its current location but now is a good time to ask if there isn't a better site.
- The project team started out with 41 sites in downtown, Spenard, Midtown, and UMed and we are now narrowing it down to 5; one of the possible sites is in the Spenard CC area.
- The Online Open House is available now through October 20 to present the five sites to the public.
  - The public will be able to comment on the five sites through the Open House.
  - One of the five sites is within the Spenard CC area (the previous DMV sites).
  - Information on the five sites is included with the handout.
- After the public comment period, the list of potential sites will be narrowed down to three. These three sites will be further developed, and another round of public outreach will occur in February/March.



**Project:** Transit Center Study

**Meeting:** Midtown Community Council Board Meeting

**Date/Time:** Oct 11, 2023, 12 Noon

**Location:** 3000 C Street, Anchorage

**Attendees:** Jeanne Bowie with Kinney Engineering  
Randy Brown with Public Transportation Department

About 20 people were in attendance.

Jeanne Bowie gave an update on the project and a handout was provided. Randy Brown provided additional comments.

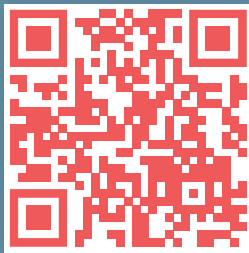
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- The reason why this is being done now is because the current transit site is being temporarily relocated while that site is being redeveloped. The transit center could go back to its current location but now is a good time to ask if there isn't a better site.
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- The Online Open House is available now through October 20 to present the five sites to the public.
  - The public will be able to comment on the five sites through the Open House.
  - One of the five sites is within the Spenard CC area (the previous DMV sites).
  - Information on the five sites is included with the handout.
- After the public comment period, the list of potential sites will be narrowed down to three. These three sites will be further developed, and another round of public outreach will occur in February/March.

# Transit Center Study

## (Public Transportation Department)

### How to Get Involved

- Participate in Online Open House (September 20 through October 20)



Scan for online Open House on the website

- Submit your thoughts and comments through the Online Open House or through the project website
- Sign up to receive emails on the project website

### Purpose of Study

The existing transit center is located in downtown Anchorage on 6th Avenue between H Street and G Street. The site is slated for a redevelopment project and the transit center will be temporarily relocated during construction. The Public Transportation Department (PTD), which manages People Mover, is taking this opportunity to consider whether the current site is in fact the best location for the transit center or if there is a better location? This study will answer that question through an in-depth evaluation coupled with dynamic public engagement, considering the benefits and trade-offs of moving the transit center to a different site either downtown or in midtown.



### Activity to Date

- **July 2023** – Operational Requirements Memo describes the general needs of the transit center. It should:
  - Serve an area with many people and jobs
  - Be visible and active most times of day & night
  - Be easily accessed by buses
  - Be easily accessed on foot (including by wheelchair)
- **July 2023** – Initial meeting of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to discuss potential sites and the criteria for evaluating them. 41 sites were identified for initial evaluation (27 downtown, 10 midtown, 4 UMED).
- **August 2023** – Second PAC meeting to review evaluation of 41 sites and identify 5 sites to present to the public.



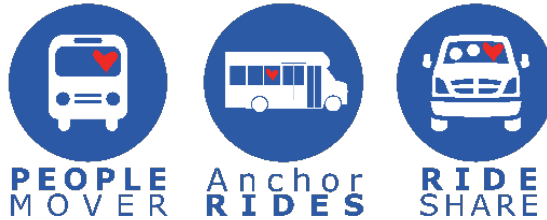
Visit the Online Open House before October 20th to tell us what you think!



Sites being considered for the main Transit Center

	Current Site West 6th Ave Between H and G Streets	A ConocoPhillips Parking Lot Between 6th & 7th and H & I St	B Chinook Parking Lot 225 E Street	C 5th Avenue Garage West 5th Ave between B & C Streets	D Previous Northern Lights Inn 598 W Northern Lights Blvd	E Previous DMV Site 1300 W Benson Blvd
Plenty of space	++	++	+++	++	++	+++
	More bus stops could be added on adjacent streets	Site is over 2 acres. Room for more buses. Modest opportunities for joint use development.	Site is over 4 acres. Room for a lot more buses. Ample opportunities for joint use development.	More bus stops could be added on adjacent streets	Site is about 2 acres. Room for more buses. Modest opportunities for joint use development.	Site is over 2 acres. Room for more buses. Modest opportunities for joint use development.
Located near people and jobs	+++	+++	++	+++	++	++
	High density employment area.	High density employment area.	Medium density employment area.	High density employment area.	Medium density employment area.	Medium density employment area.
Safe and accessible	+++	+++	+++	++	+	+++
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly visible</li> <li>Walkable</li> <li>Easy access for buses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off street, and so less visible</li> <li>Walkable</li> <li>Easy access for buses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off street, and so less visible</li> <li>Walkable</li> <li>Easy access for buses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly visible</li> <li>Walkable</li> <li>One-way streets make access challenging for buses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off street, and so less visible</li> <li>Poor pedestrian infrastructure</li> <li>Easy access for buses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off street, and so less visible</li> <li>Walkable; near recently improved Spenard Rd</li> <li>Comfortable access for buses</li> </ul>





**Municipality of Anchorage  
Public Transit Advisory Board  
Meeting Agenda  
October 12, 2023; 5:30-7:00 P.M.**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda**
- 4. Public Involvement Announcement:**

Audience participation at this meeting is limited to the Public Comments section of the agenda. However, the Chair may open any agenda item for public comment. Written comments will be addressed first, then verbal comments on a first-recognized basis by the Board Chair. Each commenter should state their name so it can be recorded in the minutes. Commenters will have two minutes to speak on each agenda item they wish to comment on. If you used the call-in number, please mute yourself when not speaking by dialing \*6. A recording is being made of this meeting and will be posted on the Municipal website.

**5. Action / Information Items**

1. Minutes of the September 14, 2023, Meeting (Action Item)
2. Director's Update (Information Item)
3. Operations Update (Information Item)
4. Transit Center Study Update (Information Item)
5. September Rider Survey Results (Information Item)
6. Budget Resolution (Action Item)
7. Ridership Update (Information Item)

- 6. Public Comments** [2 minutes each]
- 7. Member Comments**
- 8. Adjournment**

**Next PTAB Meeting Date:**

PTAB Regular Meeting – Thursday, November 12, 2023

The Municipality of Anchorage does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion or disability in access to, or operation of its programs, services, activities or in its hiring or employment practices. Title VI inquiries should be forwarded to [titlevi@muni.org](mailto:titlevi@muni.org) or 907.343.8246. PTAB meetings are audio recorded. The AMATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process is used to satisfy the public participation process of the Program of Projects (POP) that is required in U.S.C. Section 5307.

# Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB)

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2023, 5:30–7:00 p.m.



## Call to Order

Ms. Sarah Preskitt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

## Roll Call

### PTAB Members Present

Doug Miller  
Michael Williams  
Nathaniel Lackey  
Peter Hill  
Ric Nelson  
Sarah Preskitt

### PTAB Members Absent

CB Brady

### Citizens Present

Chelsea Ward-Waller  
Jacob  
Keelan Kenny  
Kyle Mielke

After the roll call, it was identified that a quorum was present.

## Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Michael Williams moved to approve the September 14, 2023, agenda.

Mr. Peter Hill seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

## Public Involvement Announcement

Ms. Sarah Preskitt read the public involvement announcement.

## Action/Information Items

### 1. Minutes of the June 8, 2023, meeting (Action Item)

Mr. Peter Hill moved to approve the minutes of June 8, 2023.

Mr. Nathaniel Lackey seconded the motion.

The motion passed without objection.

### 2. Minutes of the August 10, 2023, meeting (Action Item)

Mr. Michael Williams moved to approve the minutes of August 10, 2023.

Mr. Peter Hill seconded the motion.

Mr. Doug Miller objected and suggested amending the minutes to include Mr. Nathaniel Lackey's last name in the comment section of the August 10, 2023 minutes.

None opposed the amendment.

The motion passed as amended.

**3. Director's Update (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Ms. Jamie Acton.

**4. Operations Update (Information Item)**

Mr. Wes Renfrew was unavailable for this item. This item was skipped.

**5. Service Change Update (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Ms. Jamie Acton.

**6. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Presentation (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Ms. Chelsea Ward-Waller.

**7. Transit Center Study (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Randy Brown.

**8. Rider Survey (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Randy Brown.

**9. Ridership Update (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Nicholas Abugel, Mr. Bart Rudolph, and Ms. April White.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Member Comments**

Mr. Michael Williams mentioned that he liked the AMATS 2050 presentation and that he is excited to start reviewing all the documentation. He also mentioned that he remains optimistic about the increase in ridership. Additionally, he mentioned that in either the May or June meeting, he committed to working on PTAB's

goals, and now that his field season for work is over, he will have more time to commit to this.

Mr. Peter Hill echoed Mr. Michael Williams's statements about the AMATS 2050 presentation and ridership increases.

Mr. Nathaniel Lackey mentioned that it was great to see ridership increase and that People Mover has been successful in hiring additional drivers.

Mr. Doug Miller said that he appreciates all the hard work and transparency, and he added that he does not feel that anything is being hidden and that this was a very productive meeting.

Mr. Ric Nelson did not have any comments for this meeting.

Ms. Sarah Preskitt said that it was a great meeting, but she added that she was a bit disappointed and frustrated that the Service Change was postponed. However, she thanked People Mover staff for their continued effort.

## Adjournment

Mr. Michael Williams moved to adjourn the PTAB meeting of September 14 at 6:52 PM.

Mr. Peter Hill seconded.

The next PTAB meeting will be held on October 12, 2023, from 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Abugel  
Transit Planning Technician

*For details of the board's discussion, please refer to the recording of this meeting on the municipal website at <http://www.muni.org/Departments/transit/Pages/PublicTransitAdvisoryBoard.aspx>*

<b>Project:</b>	Transit Center Study
<b>Meeting:</b>	Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
<b>Date/Time:</b>	October 27, 2023 2:00 pm
<b>Location:</b>	Virtual, via Teams
<b>Attendees:</b>	See attached

Randy Brown with MOA Public Transportation Department (PTD) opened the meeting. He introduced the attendees and explained that the meeting goal was to choose 3 sites from the 6 sites that were presented to the public to recommend for more detailed analysis.

Jeanne Bowie (Kinney Engineering) provided background and review of the six sites that were presented to the public:

- Existing Site
  - o On-street, growth could happen, medium amount of space, highest density of employment, easy to access via walking and transit
- ConocoPhillips
  - o Would be off-street
  - o Owner is willing to talk about potentially using this site, will need to maintain parking for their employees
  - o Large site, next to existing- accessible and high density of employment
- Chinook Parking Lot
  - o Good access but seismic concern for development
  - o Plenty of space, further from downtown center, easy to access on transit and walking
  - o 2 previous plans describe a transit center located nearby this lot (2007 Our Downtown Plan, Ship Creek Area Plan)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Garage
  - o Set up similar to existing
  - o Smaller in space, not great transit access due to one-way streets
- Northern Lights Inn
  - o Midtown. Off street.
  - o Limited walking and bicycle access
- Former DMV
  - o Off-street
  - o Have reached out to owner, but have not made contact
  - o Accessible for transit and pedestrians (recent improvements)

Daniel next described the responses to the public outreach:

- Stakeholders Workshop Review
  - o Audience is representatives of groups for which transit is important; however, attendees did not necessarily represent regular transit riders
  - o Results of polling during meeting:
    - Downtown vs Midtown
      - Downtown: 16, Midtown: 4, Either: 3
    - Favorite Downtown
      - Conoco: 12, Chinook: 11, Existing: 4, Unsure: 3, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave: 0
    - Favorite Midtown
      - DMV: 15, Northern Lights: 3, Unsure: 3
        - o Due mostly to pedestrian Access
- Survey Results Online Open House
  - o 235 respondents
    - Skewing to white, middle class, regular bus riders
    - Balanced geographically



- Even response for on-street vs off-street, less favorable for underground
- Each site results
  - Respondents favored the existing transit center (note this is different from the response at the stakeholders workshop)
  - Other site with majority interest: ConocoPhillips site
- Ranking of sites reflected individual site responses
  - Existing, Conoco, Chinook, DMV, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Northern Lights
  - Median results are consistent.
  - Both Midtown sites were unfavored, almost 50% of survey respondents put these 2 in spot 5 and 6 for ranking
- Mayor's Office meeting with the mayor and staff
  - Interest in the Chinook Lot for availability and development around the site
  - Concurrent with 2007 Downtown Plan and 2014 Ship Creek Framework Plan

Next, Daniel led a discussion of which 3 sites to recommend for additional analysis.

- 3 Sites will be investigated in greater detail.
- Sites will be chosen regardless of location, there is no obligation to have a midtown site in this phase.
- Jeanne read an email from Ryan Yelle (who could not attend) describing his top sites.
- All agreed to have the Existing Site be part of the final 3.
- ConocoPhillips lot
  - Has very specific needs for their staff parking- is it worth it? ConocoPhillips is a client using the existing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue parking garage.
- DMV
  - Issues with contacting owners
- Northern Lights
  - Owner very interested. Public is not.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Ave
  - ACDA, lower public support
- Chinook Lot
  - Owned by MOA, operated by ACDA as a parking lot.
- Mike Robbins: no ideal site, include existing, Conoco, chinook.
- No pitch for a Midtown site
- Question from Mark Eisenman: Has the idea to have 2 transit centers (one downtown and one midtown) been discussed? Yes, that could eventually happen, but this study is about one single central site.
- Existing, Conoco, Chinook as three?
  - Rationale? No perfect site, but some that stick out more than others.
  - Existing is worthwhile to include for public interest.
  - Conoco has location advantage, significant public and stakeholder interest.
  - Chinook Lot- less public support but more stakeholder and MOA interest based on future development and possibilities.

PAC members (including those not in attendance at the meeting) were sent an email after the meeting with the proposed 3 sites and asked to respond with whether they agreed with those 3 sites by Wednesday, November 1. One PAC member abstained; the remainder all accepted the 3 sites as recommended.

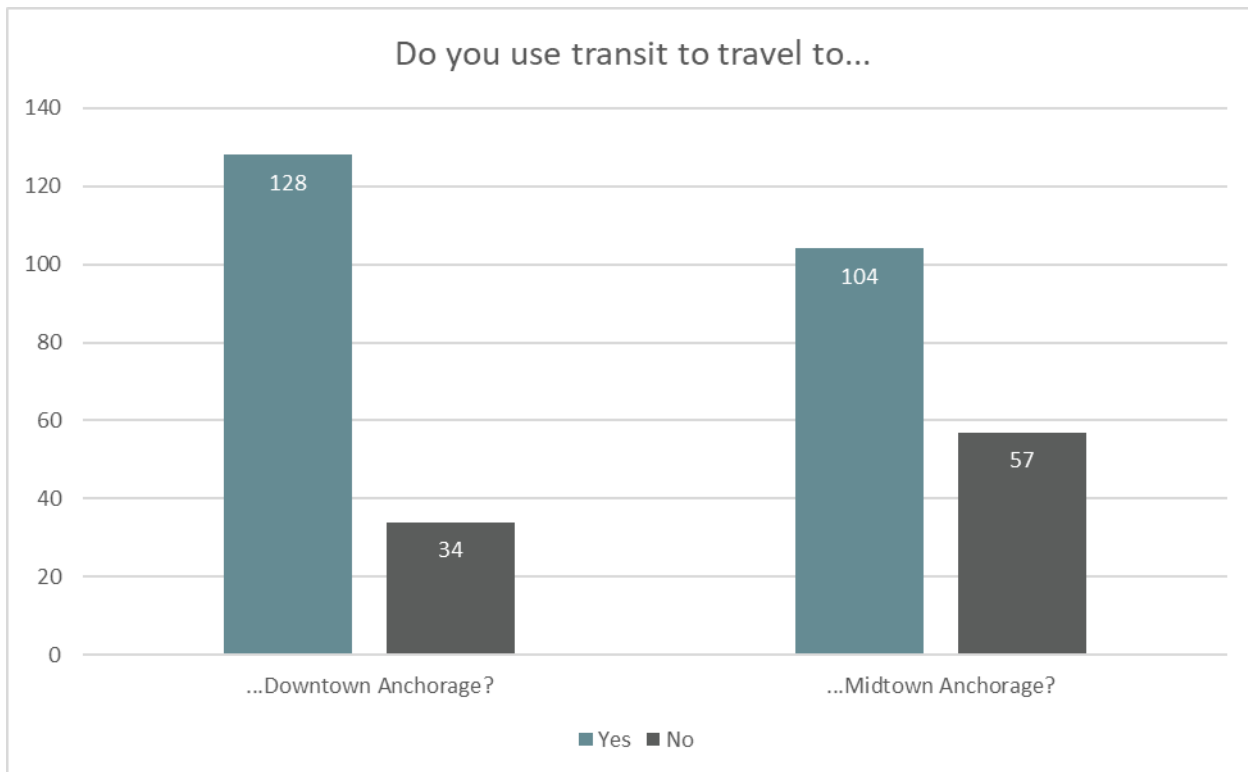
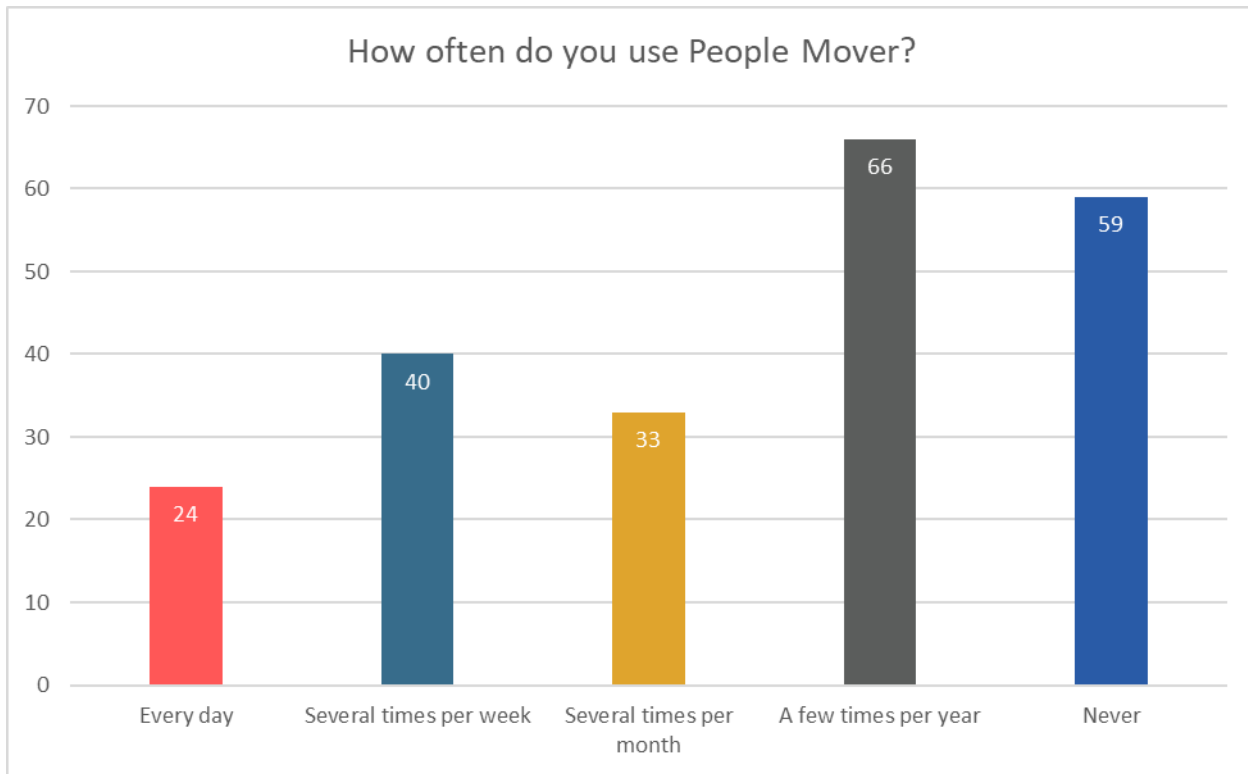
#### Next Steps

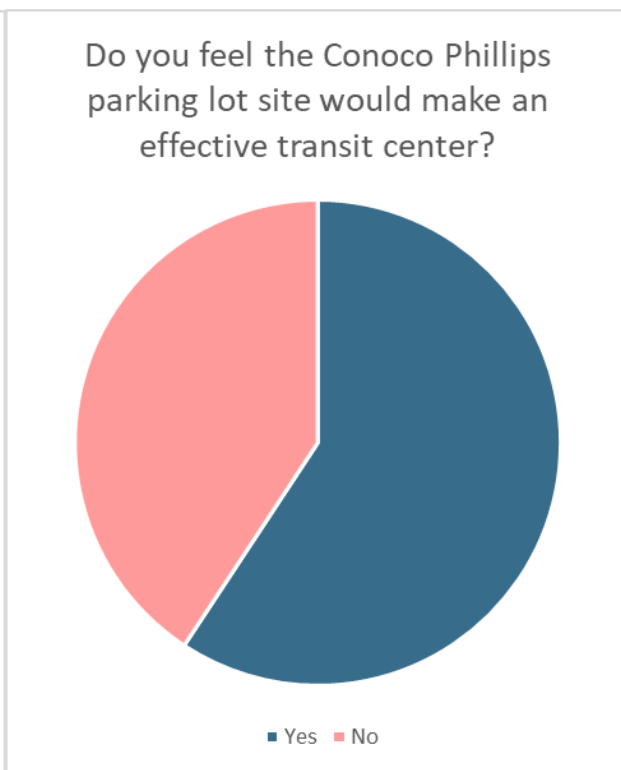
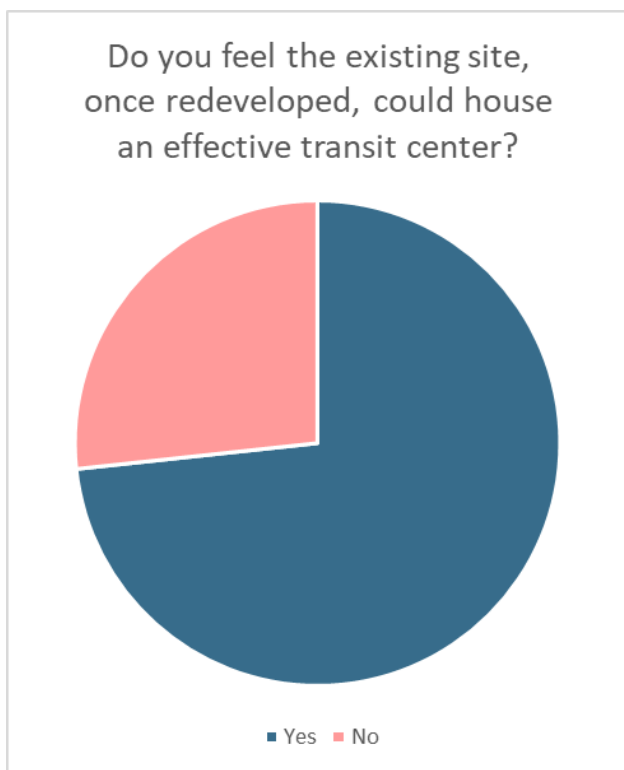
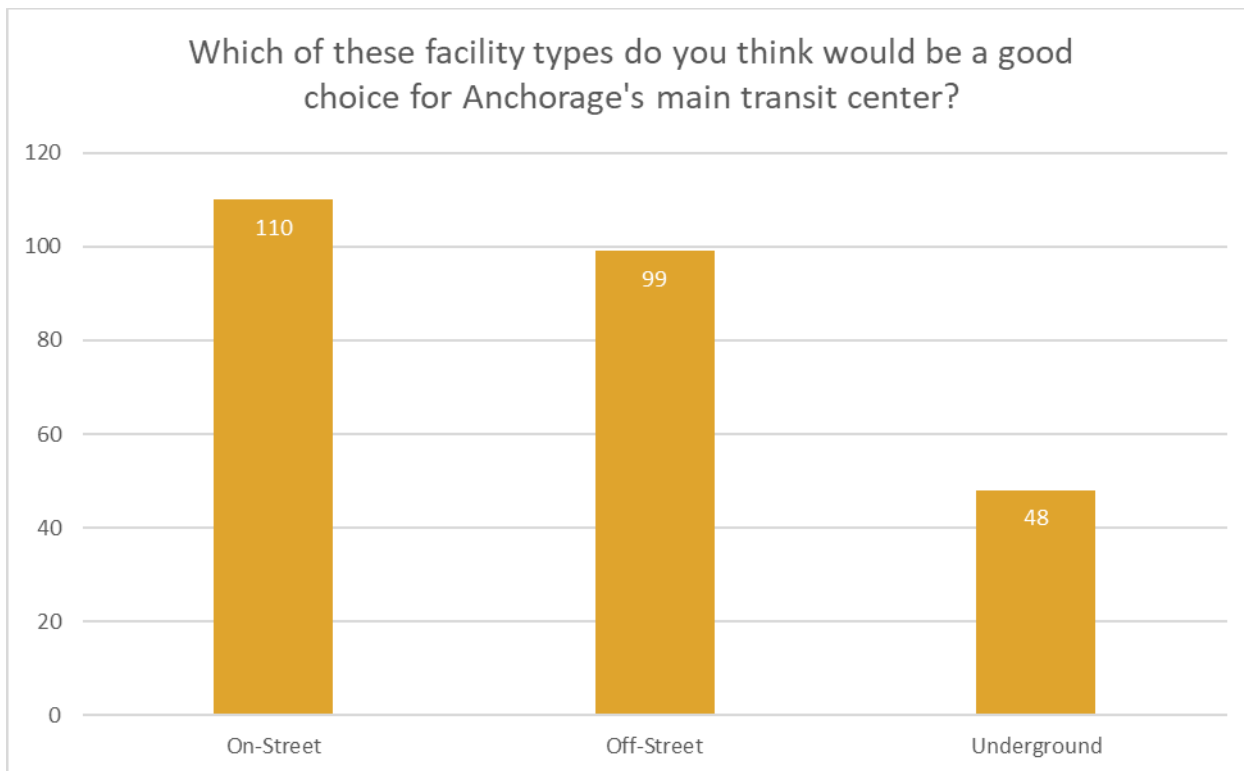
- Same information to be presented to PTAB on November 9, 2023. PTAB will also recommend 3 sites for further analysis.
- PTD director will make final decision about which sites to analyze further.
- Analysis will include:
  - Conceptual layout and costs
  - Transit system operational changes
- Next PAC meeting will probably occur sometime in January.

Name	Organization	Email	PAC #3 10/27/2023
Lance Wilber	MOA Office of Economic & Community Development & Mayor's Office	<a href="mailto:lance.wilber@anchorageak.gov">lance.wilber@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Mike Robbins	Anchorage Community Development Authority (ACDA)	<a href="mailto:mrobbins@acda.net">mrobbins@acda.net</a>	X
Jenna Wright	Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC)	<a href="mailto:jwright@aedcweb.com">jwright@aedcweb.com</a>	
Matt Stuart	Public Transportation Department (PTD)	<a href="mailto:Matthew.stuart@anchorageak.gov">Matthew.stuart@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Wes Renfrew	Public Transportation Department (PTD)	<a href="mailto:Wesley.renfrew@anchorageak.gov">Wesley.renfrew@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Shane Locke	MOA Traffic Department	<a href="mailto:shane.locke@anchorageak.gov">shane.locke@anchorageak.gov</a>	
Mark Eisenman	DOT&PF Planning	<a href="mailto:mark.eisenman@alaska.gov">mark.eisenman@alaska.gov</a>	X
Ryan Yelle	MOA Planning Department	<a href="mailto:ryan.yelle@anchorageak.gov">ryan.yelle@anchorageak.gov</a>	
Aaron Jongenelen	AMATS	<a href="mailto:aaron.jongenelen@anchorageak.gov">aaron.jongenelen@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Tiffany Briggs	MOA Real Estate Department	<a href="mailto:tiffany.briggs@anchorageak.gov">tiffany.briggs@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Jamie Acton	PTD	<a href="mailto:jamie.acton@anchorageak.gov">jamie.acton@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Randy Brown	PTD	<a href="mailto:randy.brown@anchorageak.gov">randy.brown@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Bart Rudolph	PTD	<a href="mailto:bart.rudolph@anchorageak.gov">bart.rudolph@anchorageak.gov</a>	X
Daniel Costantino	JWA	<a href="mailto:daniel@jarrettwalker.com">daniel@jarrettwalker.com</a>	X
Gavin Pritchard	JWA	<a href="mailto:gavin@jarrettwalker.com">gavin@jarrettwalker.com</a>	X
Joann Mitchell	Kinney Engineering	<a href="mailto:joann.mitchell@kinneyeng.com">joann.mitchell@kinneyeng.com</a>	
Jeanne Bowie	Kinney Engineering	<a href="mailto:jeanne.bowie@kinneyeng.com">jeanne.bowie@kinneyeng.com</a>	X
Margaret Devlin	Kinney Engineering	<a href="mailto:margaret.devlin@kinneyeng.com">margaret.devlin@kinneyeng.com</a>	X

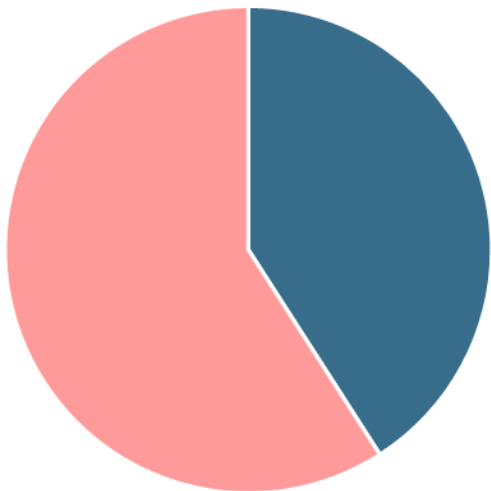
# Results of the Anchorage Transit Center Survey

September 21, 2023 through 5 PM on October 20, 2023



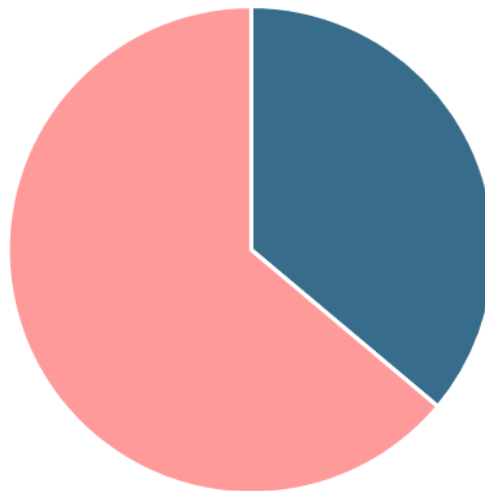


Do you feel the Chinook parking lot site would make an effective transit center?



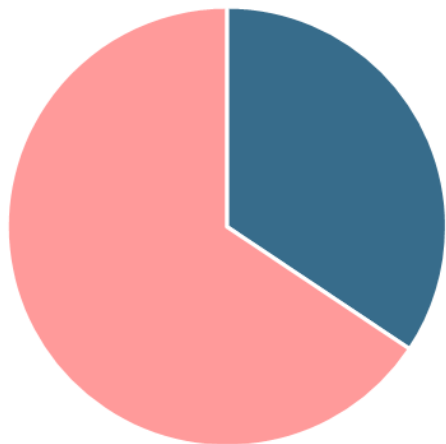
■ Yes ■ No

Do you feel the 5th Avenue Garage site would make an effective transit center?



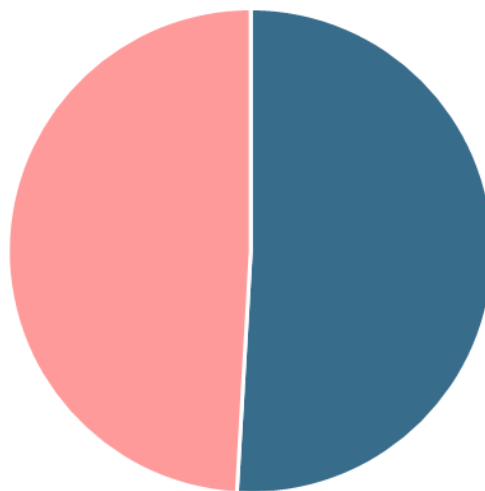
■ Yes ■ No

Do you feel the previous Northern Lights Inn site would make an effective transit center?

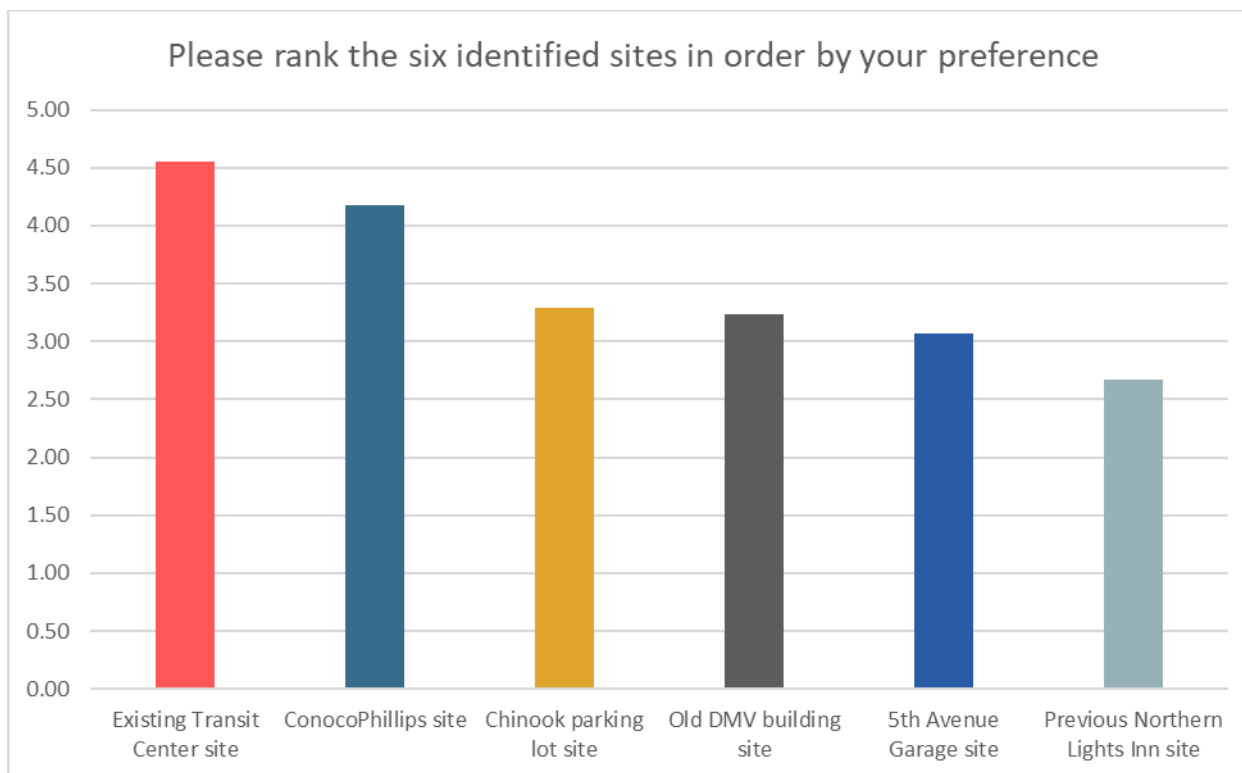


■ Yes ■ No

Do you feel the old DMV building site would make an effective transit center?



■ Yes ■ No



	1	2	3	4	5	6	Average Score
Existing Transit Center site	40.5% 92	24.2% 55	11.0% 25	7.0% 16	8.8% 20	8.4% 19	4.56
ConocoPhillips site	17.6% 40	26.9% 61	27.8% 63	15.4% 35	8.4% 19	4.0% 9	4.18
Chinook parking lot site	8.4% 19	15.9% 36	21.6% 49	22.9% 52	13.7% 31	17.6% 40	3.30
5th Avenue Garage site	5.3% 12	10.1% 23	20.7% 47	28.6% 65	20.7% 47	14.5% 33	3.07
Previous Northern Lights Inn site	8.4% 19	9.7% 22	6.2% 14	16.7% 38	33.9% 77	25.1% 57	2.67
Old DMV building site	19.8% 45	13.2% 30	12.8% 29	9.3% 21	14.5% 33	30.4% 69	3.23

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<b>Project:</b>	Transit Center Study
<b>Meeting:</b>	Downtown Community Council
<b>Date/Time:</b>	Nov 1, 2023, 5:30 pm
<b>Location:</b>	City Hall, Rm 155, Anchorage
<b>Attendees:</b>	Jeanne Bowie with Kinney Engineering Randy Brown with Public Transportation Department  Approximately 22 people were in attendance at the time of the presentation.

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Jeanne Bowie gave an update on the project and a handout was provided.

- This project is taking the opportunity to consider the optimal location for the transit center.
- We recently completed the public review period of 6 potential sites for the transit center. The public review period included a Stakeholder Workshop and an Online Open House. The Open House ran from September 20 to October 20.
- The 6 potential sites were:
  - Existing
  - ConocoPhillips parking lot (across the street from the existing)
  - Chinook parking lot (north of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and up the hill from the railroad station)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue garage
  - Old DMV site (corner of Benson and Spenard)
  - Old Northern Lights Inn (between Benson and Northern Lights, about halfway between Arctic and the A-C couplet)
- We met with the Project Advisory Committee on Friday October 27.
  - We presented the response from the stakeholder workshop and from the open house survey. A short version of the results is on the back of the handout.
  - The Project Advisory Committee recommended 3 sites for our more detailed analysis.
  - The detailed analysis will include concept site design, cost estimates, and operational analysis of the transit center.
- The Public Transportation Advisory Board will meet on November 9 and will also make a recommendation for the 3 sites we should analyze in more detail.
- Those recommendations will go to Mayor's office and PTD director, who will make the final decision of which 3 sites we analyze in more detail over the next few months.
- The 3 sites that were recommended by the Project Advisory Committee are:
  - Existing
  - ConocoPhillips
  - Chinook

*Help Shape  
the Future of  
Transit in  
Anchorage*



Scan to visit the  
project website  
[AncTransitCenter.com](http://AncTransitCenter.com)

# Transit Center Study

(Public Transportation Department)



## Purpose of Study

The existing transit center is located in downtown Anchorage on 6th Avenue between H Street and G Street. The site is slated for a redevelopment project and the transit center will be temporarily relocated during construction. The Public Transportation Department (PTD), which manages People Mover, is taking this opportunity to consider whether the current site is in fact the best location for the transit center or if there is a better one? This study will answer that question through an in-depth evaluation coupled with dynamic public engagement, considering the benefits and trade-offs of moving the transit center to a different site either downtown or in midtown.

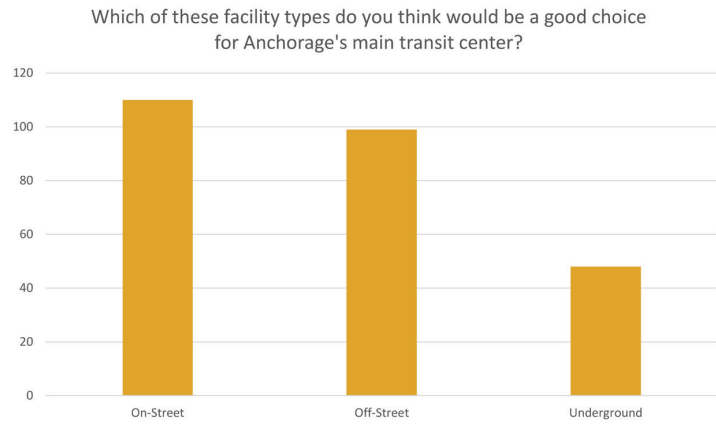
## Activity to Date

- **July 2023** – Operational Requirements Memo describes the general needs of the transit center. It should:
  - Serve an area with many people and jobs
  - Be visible and active most times of day & night
  - Be easily accessed by buses
  - Be easily accessed on foot (including by wheelchair)
- **July 2023** – Initial meeting of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to discuss potential sites and the criteria for evaluating them. 41 sites were identified for evaluation.
- **August 2023** – Second PAC meeting to review evaluation of 41 sites and identify 6 sites to present to the public.
- **September through October 2023** – Stakeholder workshop and Online Open House to present the 6 potential sites to the public.

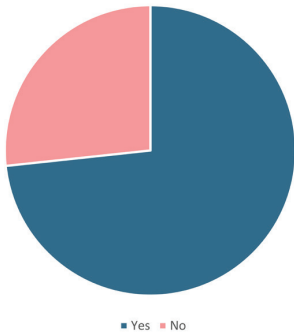




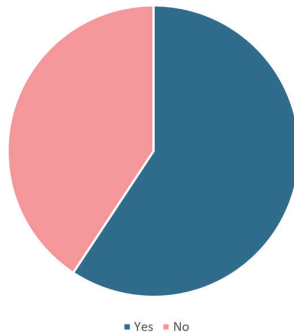
**235 people responded to the Open House survey.**



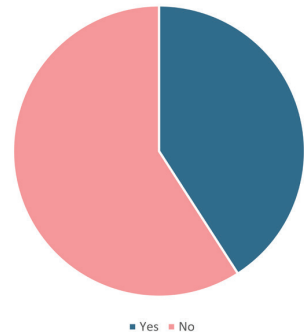
Do you feel the existing site, once redeveloped, could house an effective transit center?



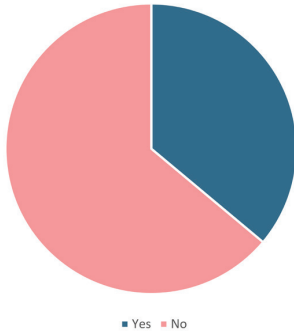
Do you feel the ConocoPhillips parking lot site would make an effective transit center?



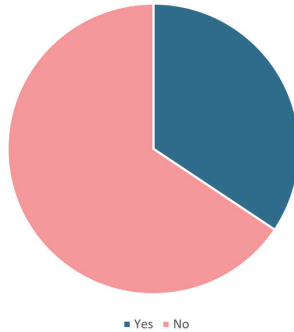
Do you feel the Chinook parking lot site would make an effective transit center?



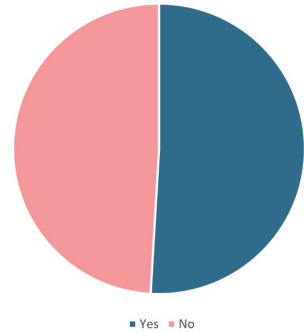
Do you feel the 5th Avenue Garage site would make an effective transit center?



Do you feel the previous Northern Lights Inn site would make an effective transit center?

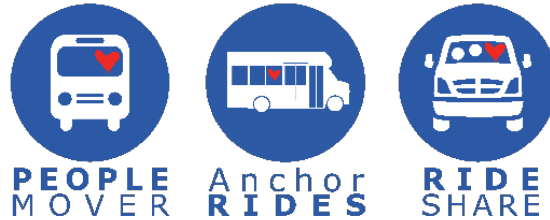


Do you feel the old DMV building site would make an effective transit center?



Respondents ranked the sites in order of preference from 1 to 6:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Average Score
Existing Transit Center Site	40.5%	24.2%	11.0%	7.0%	8.8%	8.4%	<b>4.56</b>
Conoco Phillip Site	17.6%	26.9%	27.8%	15.4%	8.4%	4.0%	<b>4.18</b>
Chinook Parking Lot Site	8.4%	15.9%	21.6%	22.9%	13.7%	17.6%	<b>3.30</b>
5th Avenue Garage Site	5.3%	10.1%	20.7%	28.6%	20.7%	14.5%	<b>3.07</b>
Previous Northern Lights Inn Site	8.4%	9.7%	6.2%	16.7%	33.9%	25.1%	<b>2.67</b>
Old DMV Building Site	19.8%	13.2%	12.8%	9.3%	14.5%	30.4%	<b>3.23</b>



**Municipality of Anchorage  
Public Transit Advisory Board  
Meeting Agenda  
November 9, 2023; 5:30-7:00 P.M.**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda**
- 4. Public Involvement Announcement:**

Audience participation at this meeting is limited to the Public Comments section of the agenda. However, the Chair may open any agenda item for public comment. Written comments will be addressed first, then verbal comments on a first-recognized basis by the Board Chair. Each commenter should state their name so it can be recorded in the minutes. Commenters will have two minutes to speak on each agenda item they wish to comment on. If you used the call-in number, please mute yourself when not speaking by dialing \*6. A recording is being made of this meeting and will be posted on the Municipal website.

- 5. Action / Information Items**

1. Minutes of October 12, 2023, Meeting (Action Item) [2 Minutes]
2. Director's Update (Info Item) [5 Minutes]
3. Operations Update (Info Item) [5 Minutes]
4. Transit Center Study Update & Three Site Recommendation (Action Item) [60 Minutes]
5. SFY2025 Alaska Mental Health Trust Grant (Action Item) [5 Minutes]
6. Ridership Update (Info Item) [5 Minutes]

- 6. Public Comments** [2 minutes each]
- 7. Member Comments**
- 8. Adjournment**

**Next PTAB Meeting Date:**

PTAB Regular Meeting – Thursday, December 14, 2023

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# Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB)

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023, 5:30–7:00 p.m.



## Call to Order

Ms. Sarah Preskitt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

## Roll Call

### PTAB Members Present

CB Brady  
Doug Miller  
Michael J. Williams  
Michael Williams  
Nathaniel Lackey  
Peter Hill  
Ric Nelson  
Sarah Preskitt

### Citizens Present

Daniel Costantino (JWA)  
Stewart Nagel

### PTAB Members Absent

N/A

After the roll call, it was identified that a quorum was present.

## Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Nathaniel Lackey moved to approve the October 14, 2023, agenda.

Mr. Peter Hill seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

## Public Involvement Announcement

Ms. Sarah Preskitt read the public involvement announcement.

## Action/Information Items

### 1. Minutes of the September 14, 2023, meeting (Action Item)

Mr. Peter Hill moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2023.

Mr. Doug Miller seconded the motion.

The motion passed without objection.

### 2. Director's Update (Information Item)

Information was provided by Mr. Wes Renfrew in Ms. Jamie Acton's absence.

### **3. Operations Update (Information Item)**

Information provided by Mr. Wes Renfrew.

### **4. Transit Center Study Update (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Daniel Costantino.

### **5. September Rider Survey Results (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Randy Brown.

### **6. Budget Resolution (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Bart Rudolph.

### **7. Ridership Update (Information Item)**

Information was provided by Mr. Nicholas Abugel and Mr. Bart Rudolph.

## **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **Member Comments**

Mr. C.B. Brady welcomed Mr. Michael J. Williams to the board and thanked Mr. Daniel Costantino for his presentation. He added, "The screens in the buses are great! However, the detour messaging can be a bit hard to see."

Mr. Doug Miller said that he thought today's meeting was good. He added that he looks forward to a time when we have an indoor transit center and wondered how we got by without one for so long. He also requested a time estimate for each agenda item.

Mr. Peter Hill welcomed Mr. Michael J. Williams and echoed Doug Miller's statement about getting an indoor transit center.

Mr. Michael J. Williams thanked everyone for welcoming him to the board and expressed his pleasure to be a part of it. He added that he had been riding People Mover for the past 20 years and raised a concern about a broken screen at the transit center.

Mr. Michael Williams expressed excitement about the positive results of the rider survey.

Mr. Nathaniel Lackey welcomed Mr. Michael J. Williams and thanked Mr. Daniel Costantino for his presentation.

Mr. Ric Nelson said he had no comments for this meeting and would be unable to attend the November PTAB meeting.

Ms. Sarah Preskitt welcomed Mr. Michael J. Williams to the board and expressed excitement about the rider survey results.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Peter Hill moved to adjourn the PTAB meeting of September 14 at 7:08 PM.

Mr. Michael J. Williams seconded.

The next PTAB meeting will be held on November 9, 2023, from 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Abugel  
Transit Planning Technician

*For details of the board's discussion, please refer to the recording of this meeting on the municipal website at <http://www.muni.org/Departments/transit/Pages/PublicTransitAdvisoryBoard.aspx7>*

# Municipality of Anchorage Public Transportation Department



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 2, 2023  
**TO:** Public Transit Advisory Board  
**FROM:** Randy Brown, Senior Transit Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Transit Center Study: Project Advisory Committee Recommendation of Three Sites

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On October 27, 2023, the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) met for the third time to review feedback from stakeholders, the general public, and to recommend three (3) sites to advance to the next phase of this study. When considering location, ease of access and acquisition, the needs of transit riders, and feedback from the public and stakeholders, the PAC is recommending these sites:

- The existing site (700 W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave)
- The ConocoPhillips lot (6<sup>th</sup> Ave & I Street)
- The Chinook lot (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave & E Street)

All three sites are located downtown. Feedback from the stakeholder workshop, online open house, and the PAC indicate a greater level of support for a downtown location over one in midtown.

The Public Transportation Department (PTD) is requesting that the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) recommend three sites to advance to the next phase of project. Once the Board's recommendation has been received, the Department Director and the Administration (Mayor's office) will make a final decision on which three sites advance. The final decision is anticipated by no later than November 17, 2023.

In the next phase of the project, detailed site layouts, financial and operational plans, and a feasibility report will be completed. The study is still on schedule and is expected to conclude late spring/early summer of 2024.

**Anchorage Transit Center Study**  
**Sites Recommended and Not Recommended for Further Study**  
Based on Discussion with Project Advisory Committee (PAC) on 10/27/2023

Site	Key Positive Factors	Key Negative Factors	PAC Recommendation
<b>Existing Transit Center</b> <i>(West 6th Ave, between G and H)</i>	<p>Strong Public Support (65% first or second choice in survey)</p> <p>Central location within Downtown</p> <p>Good accessibility for pedestrians</p> <p>Demonstrated ability to function in existing network</p>	<p>Weak stakeholder support (4 votes in favor in workshop)</p> <p>Limited ability to support future growth</p> <p>Reduced availability of indoor space, compared to pre-COVID facility</p> <p>Constraints on redevelopment of garage site</p>	<p><b>Proceed with detailed study</b></p>
<b>ConocoPhillips Lot</b> <i>(Between 6th and 7th, H and I)</i>	<p>Medium Public Support (45% first or second choice in survey)</p> <p>Medium Stakeholder Support (12 votes in favor in workshop)</p> <p>Same location and accessibility benefits as existing transit center</p> <p>Potential for transit center as part of a larger redevelopment into office, housing, commercial or other uses</p>	<p>Potentially complicated acquisition and redevelopment. Requires coming to an agreement with ConocoPhillips, taking account their business needs.</p> <p>Potentially expensive, for the reasons above.</p>	<p><b>Proceed with detailed study</b></p>
<b>Chinook Lot</b> <i>(225 E Street)</i>	<p>Medium Stakeholder Support (11 votes in favor in workshop)</p> <p>Easy acquisition. Site already belongs to the Municipality.</p> <p>Lots of ongoing nearby redevelopment.</p> <p>Potential for intermodal transfers (rail, buses).</p> <p>Very large site, many layouts possible.</p>	<p>Weak Public Support (25% first or second choice in survey)</p> <p>High-risk seismic zone, limits building possibilities</p> <p>Farther from existing center of activity than other sites being examined in Downtown</p>	<p><b>Proceed with detailed study</b></p>

**Anchorage Transit Center Study**  
**Sites Recommended and Not Recommended for Further Study**  
Based on Discussion with Project Advisory Committee (PAC) on 10/27/2023

Site	Key Positive Factors	Key Negative Factors	PAC Recommendation
<b>5th Avenue Garage</b> <i>(West 5th Ave, between B and C)</i>	<p>Central location within Downtown</p> <p>Relatively easy acquisition. Site belongs to ACDA, who is willing to make it available.</p> <p>Medium accessibility for pedestrians (good sidewalks but high/fast traffic on 5th)</p>	<p>Very Weak Public Support (15% first or second choice in survey)</p> <p>No Stakeholder Support</p> <p>Significant year-round and seasonal operating challenges (buses can't turn right on C and D, 4th Ave closures for Iditarod and Fur Rondy)</p> <p>High-risk seismic zone</p>	<p><b>Do not proceed</b></p>
<b>Former Northern Lights Inn</b> <i>(598 W Northern Lights)</i>	<p>Relatively easy acquisition and/or redevelopment. Existing owner wants to redevelop, wants to do it with transit and combine with other development possibilities, e.g. housing.</p> <p>Central site within Midtown.</p>	<p>Strong Public Opposition (59% fifth or sixth choice in survey)</p> <p>Weak Stakeholder Support. (3 votes in favor in workshop)</p> <p>Significant pedestrian access challenges and safety hazards due to high traffic, high speeds, narrow sidewalks, no safe crossings on Northern Lights and Benson. Previous attempts to remediate have not been successful.</p> <p>Midtown sites have larger impact on transit network than Downtown.</p>	<p><b>Do not proceed</b></p>
<b>Former DMV Site</b> <i>(1300 W Benson)</i>	<p>Good pedestrian access to site on Spenard, medium on Benson.</p>	<p>Medium Public Opposition (45% fifth or sixth choice in survey)</p> <p>Midtown sites have larger impact on transit network than Downtown.</p> <p>Relatively far from many Midtown activities and destinations.</p> <p>Acquisition potential unclear. Site owner has not responded to e-mails to date.</p>	<p><b>Do not proceed</b></p>