



## Which one's best? Harrisburg bus, train station expansion down to three sites

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Should the Harrisburg Transportation Center expand into an old post office, a former newspaper building or a large lot next to the tracks? That's what planners want local transit users to weigh in on.



On Tuesday, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation unveiled three conceptual designs for the Harrisburg Transportation Center. Nearby residents, daily train users and bus riders offered their opinions on which design would serve the community the best.

The planned expansion would be located at one of three sites. The first is the former Patriot-News building, located at Market and Ninth streets. The second is the old post office building, located at Market and Mulberry streets. The last a doglegged property between Market and Third streets.

Should the Harrisburg Transportation Center expand into an old post office, a former newspaper building or a large lot next to the tracks? That's what planners want local transit users to weigh in on. *(Christian Alexandersen, PennLive)*

Each location has multiple options, giving those who stopped by a number of concepts to choose from.

The purpose of the project is to expand the use, safety and comfort of transit users in downtown Harrisburg, according to Howard Blackson, with Michael Baker International. Right now, Blackson said, all transit options are "slammed together" in the aging Harrisburg Transportation Center.

All of the properties have their strengths and weaknesses. It was the public's chance Tuesday night to help planners, engineers and transportation experts figure out which is the best site moving forward.

"We want people to tell us if we have our priorities right," Blackson said. "We want people to tell us if we heard them correctly. We want to know which option works for them."

Jean Greco, who lives a block from the center, said she thought the planned expansion and improvements were "fabulous."

She's attended multiple meetings and continues to press certain topics. While she continues to push for handicap accessibility and having a trolley go from Market Street up Allison Hill, Greco said her main concern is safety.



Two different conceptual drawings for expanding the transportation center into the old Patriot News building on Market Street. *Christian Alexandersen, PennLive*

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"I'm still concerned about some of the concepts," Greco said. "There needs to be closed spaces ... I want to go where I know it's safe."

But before any expansion projects can be decided, they must first rehabilitate Paxton Creek.

PennDOT planner Angela Watson said they just began studying flood and stormwater control options for Paxton Creek. The study will develop a hydraulic flow model, test impacts of specific design concepts on creek flow and identify the most cost-efficient alternatives to mitigate the flood risk.

Results of the study are expected in the spring, Watson said.

The Harrisburg Transportation Center is also in line to receive a \$15 million facelift. The project -- which has not yet started -- will include installing energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, replacing multiple roofs, installing new windows, renovating underutilized space and doing what needs to be done to stabilize the aging building.

The building improvement designs are expected to be finalized in 2017, Watson said.

So far, Blackson said, an amount has not been attached to any of the three expansion sites. It will be years before plans are finalized and construction can begin.

For more information on the project, visit the [Harrisburg Transportation Center plans here](#).

source: [www.pennlive.com](http://www.pennlive.com)



One of three different conceptual drawings for expanding the transportation center into the old post office building on Market Street.  
*Christian Alexandersen, PennLive*