Ann Arbor Station Environmental Review

Public Information Meetings

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Welcome

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Agenda

- Project Overview
- Advisory Groups
- Study Documents
- Draft Purpose and Need
- Draft Design Criteria
- Draft Site Selection Criteria
- Questions
- Public Comment—Limit 3 minutes per Speaker

Project Overview

What is the Environmental Review?

A **Concept Planning** study.

- Define the long-term needs for Ann Arbor's station facility
- Identify potential sites and station options, evaluate benefits and impacts to the community (*not just natural environment*)
- Comply with required processes for federal funding eligibility

Study Process

Purpose & Need

- Examine existing data, conditions
- Establish needs for improvement

Alternatives & Evaluation

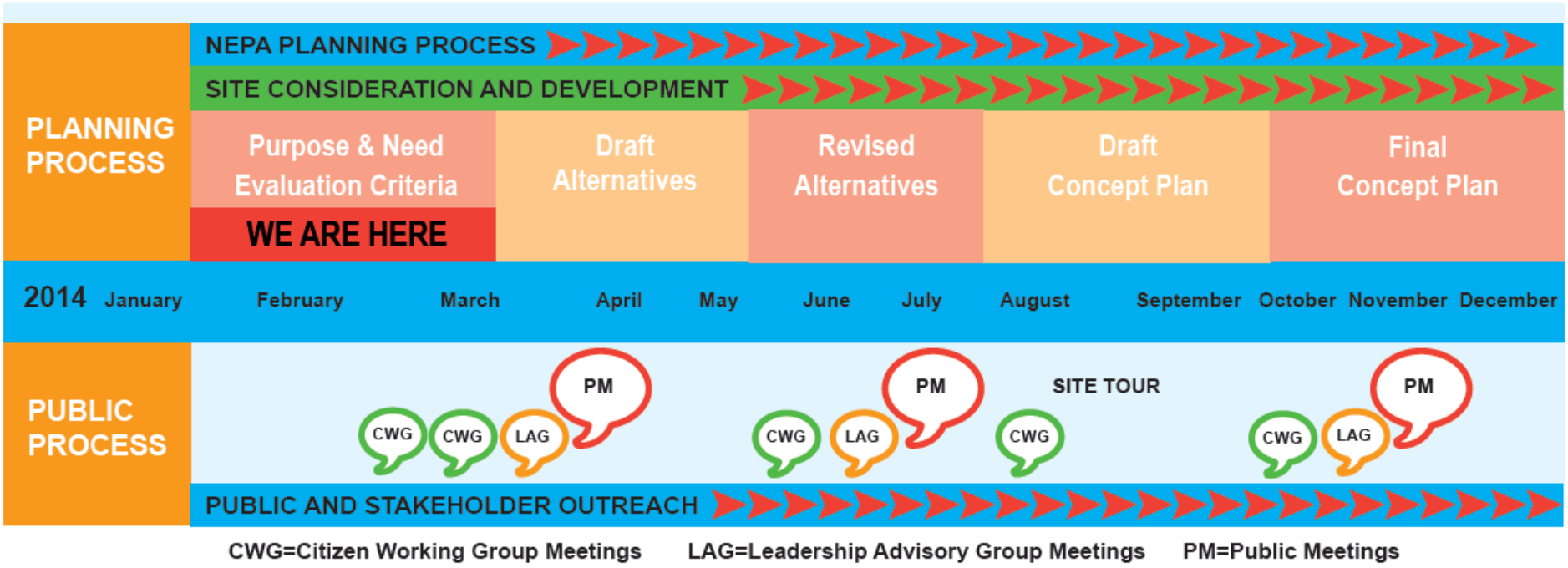
- Develop options to consider
- Evaluate environmental, social, economic impacts

Select Preferred Alternative

- Identify mitigation measures
- Seek Federal clearance for project funding

Community Engagement throughout

Study Timeline



Why is the City studying station options?

- Limitations of existing station & site
- Increases in station use
- Rail upgrades
- Federal funding
- City Transportation Plan update

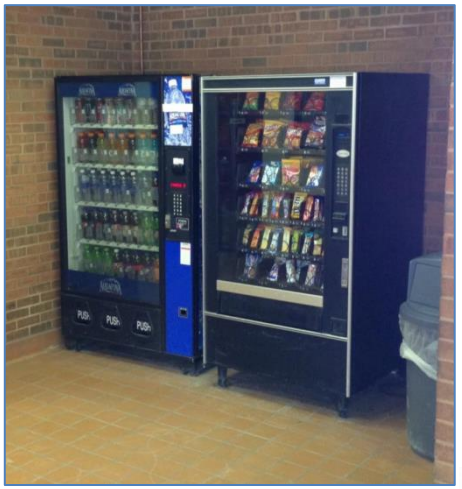
Corridor Improvements

MDOT & Tri-State partnership to improve Pontiac-Detroit-Chicago Passenger Rail

Station Investments…

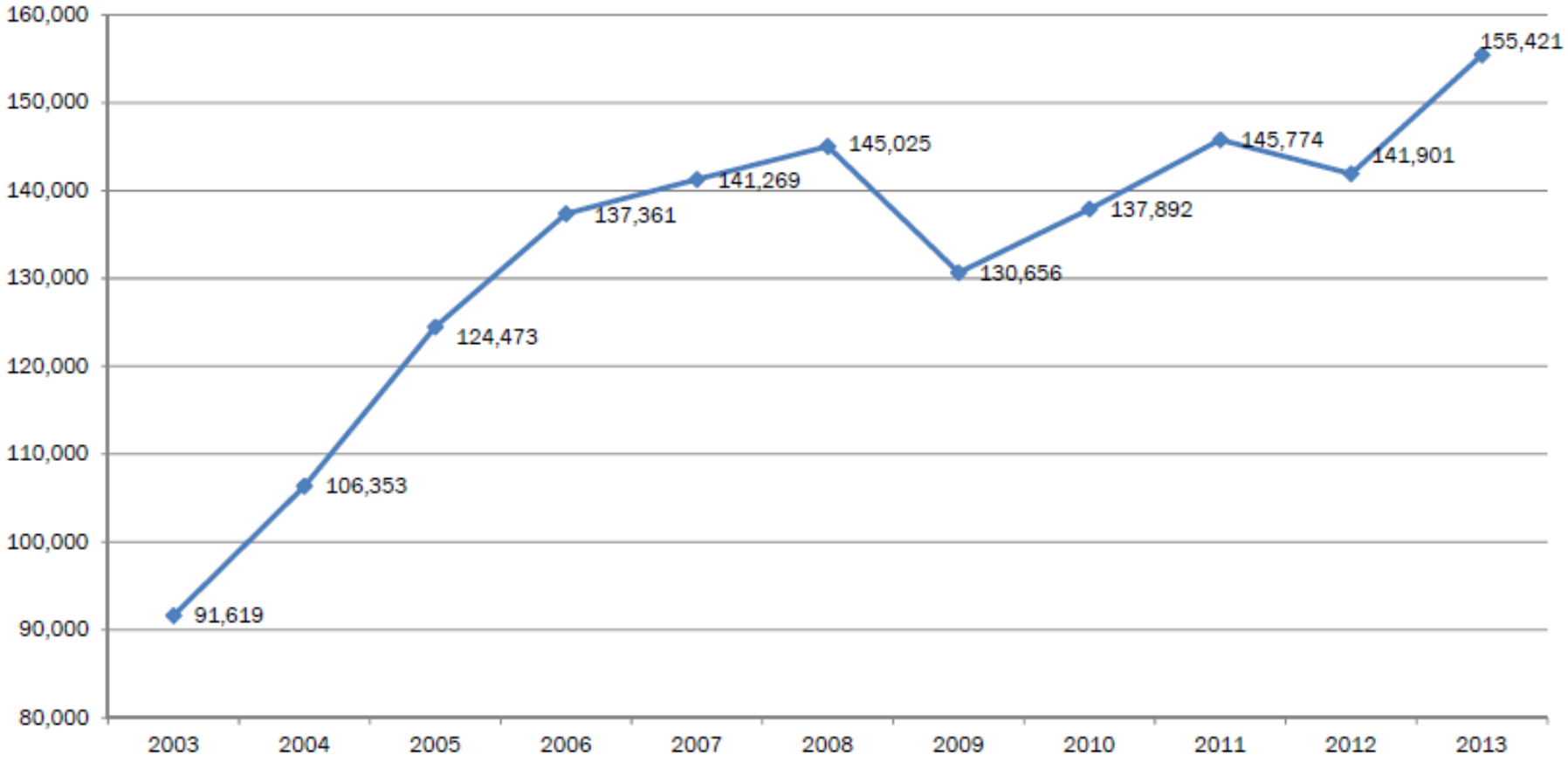
- Long term
- Meet present and future system needs
- Accommodate future rail passengers
- Multi-modal and intermodal

Existing Station



Increasing Ridership

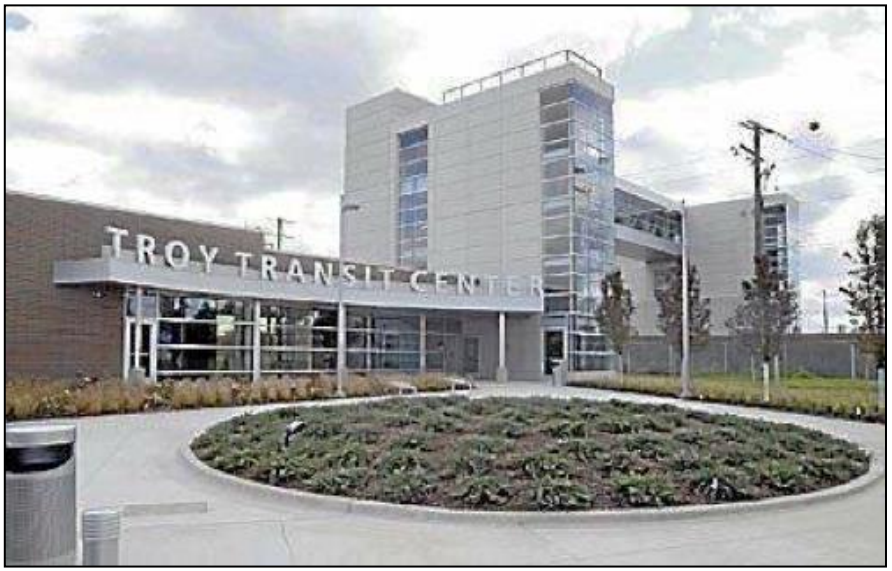
Ann Arbor is the busiest Amtrak station in Michigan



Station Improvements in Michigan

Dearborn

Station Improvements in Michigan



Troy/Birmingham

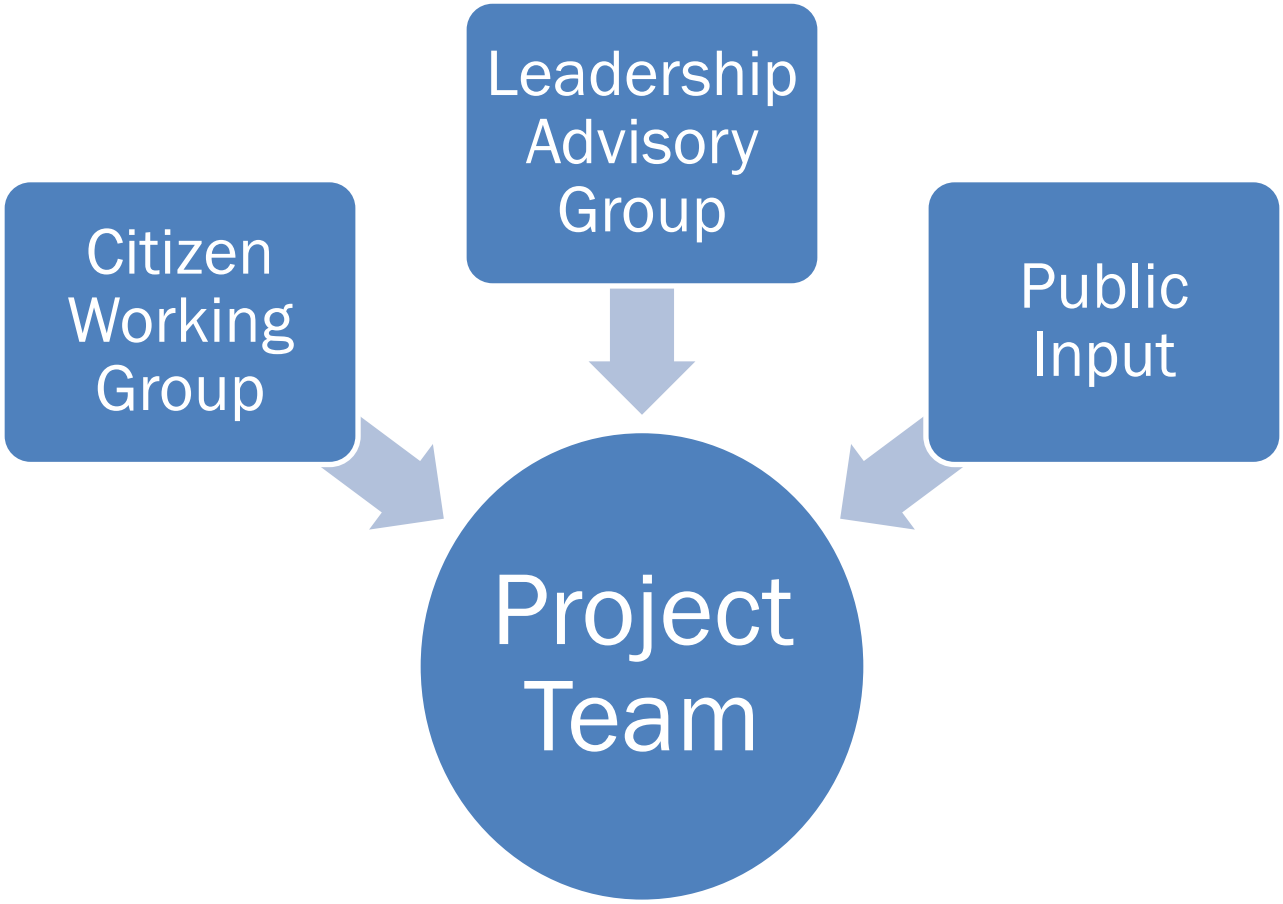
Grand Rapids

NEPA / Environmental Screening Process

- Federal requirement
- Defines "environment" broadly:
  - natural features
  - community (e.g., traffic, noise)
  - socioeconomic conditions
- Comparison of alternatives, including "No Build"
- Public participation

Advisory Groups

Important element of public and stakeholder involvement



Study Documents

Study Documents

Discussion:

- Purpose & Need
- Design Criteria
- Site Selection Criteria

Discussed at future meetings:

- Alternatives Analysis
- Concept Plan
- Environmental Assessment

Purpose and Need

- Required element of a Environmental Review
- Guides study decisions
- Documents basis for the study

Purpose and Need

Need:

- Accommodate Existing and Future Passengers
- Provide a Station to Accommodate All Passengers Modes
- Improve Regional Access
- Provide a Quality Experience

Design Criteria

Design Criteria

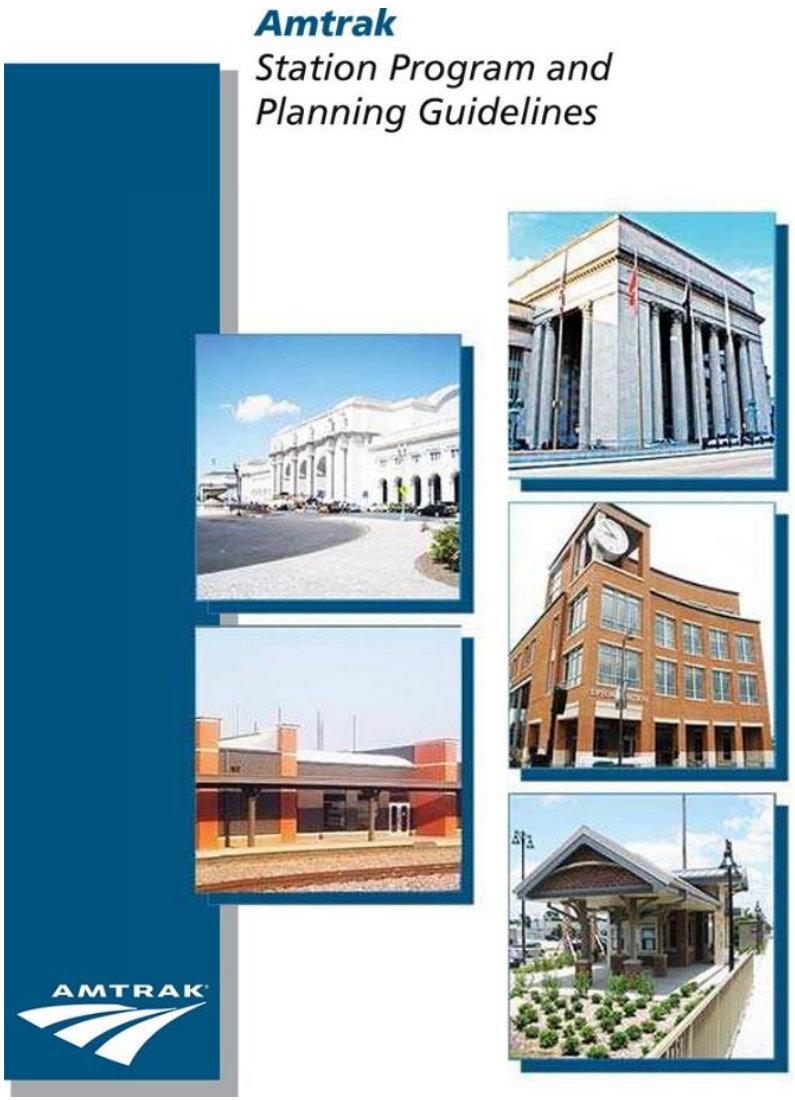
- Follow established standards, guidelines, regulations and ordinances
- Guide and direct the site design
- FRA, Amtrak, City of AA, MDOT, Bus Operators…
- Sustainability
- Examples:
  - Setbacks from property lines
  - Number of parking spaces
  - ADA requirements
  - Stormwater treatment requirements

Design Criteria

Implications:

- Influence size and layout of site
- Satisfy Purpose and Need
- Flexibility
- Inform site selection process
- Responsive to long term need, even if project is built in phases

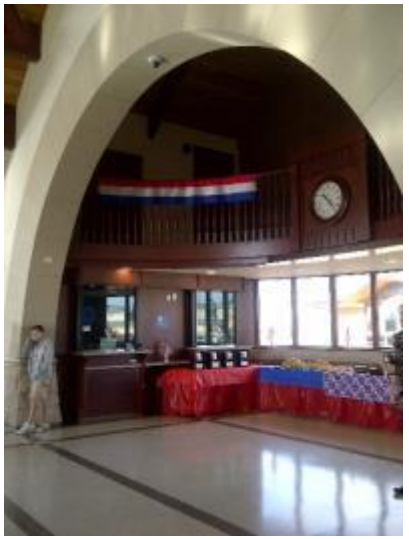
Amtrak Station Guidelines



4. Station Categories

Category 2 Medium Stations

Required Building Spaces



Optional Building Spaces

Celebrate Travel

Community Gateway

More Than a Place to Buy a Ticket

Design Criteria: Travel Modes

Accommodate many travel modes:

- Rail (Amtrak and Commuter)
- Bus (Intercity, The Ride, U-M, airport service)
- Pedestrians
- Bicyclists
- Taxis/Shuttles
- Cars
- Service trucks

Dearborn Station (in construction)

Program will need to accommodate all users

Travel Modes

Rail

Bus

Bikes

Source: AnnArbor.com

Pedestrians

Source: walkfriendly.org

Source: sfgov2.org

And…

- Cars
- Taxis
- Shuttle service

Site Selection Criteria

Site Components

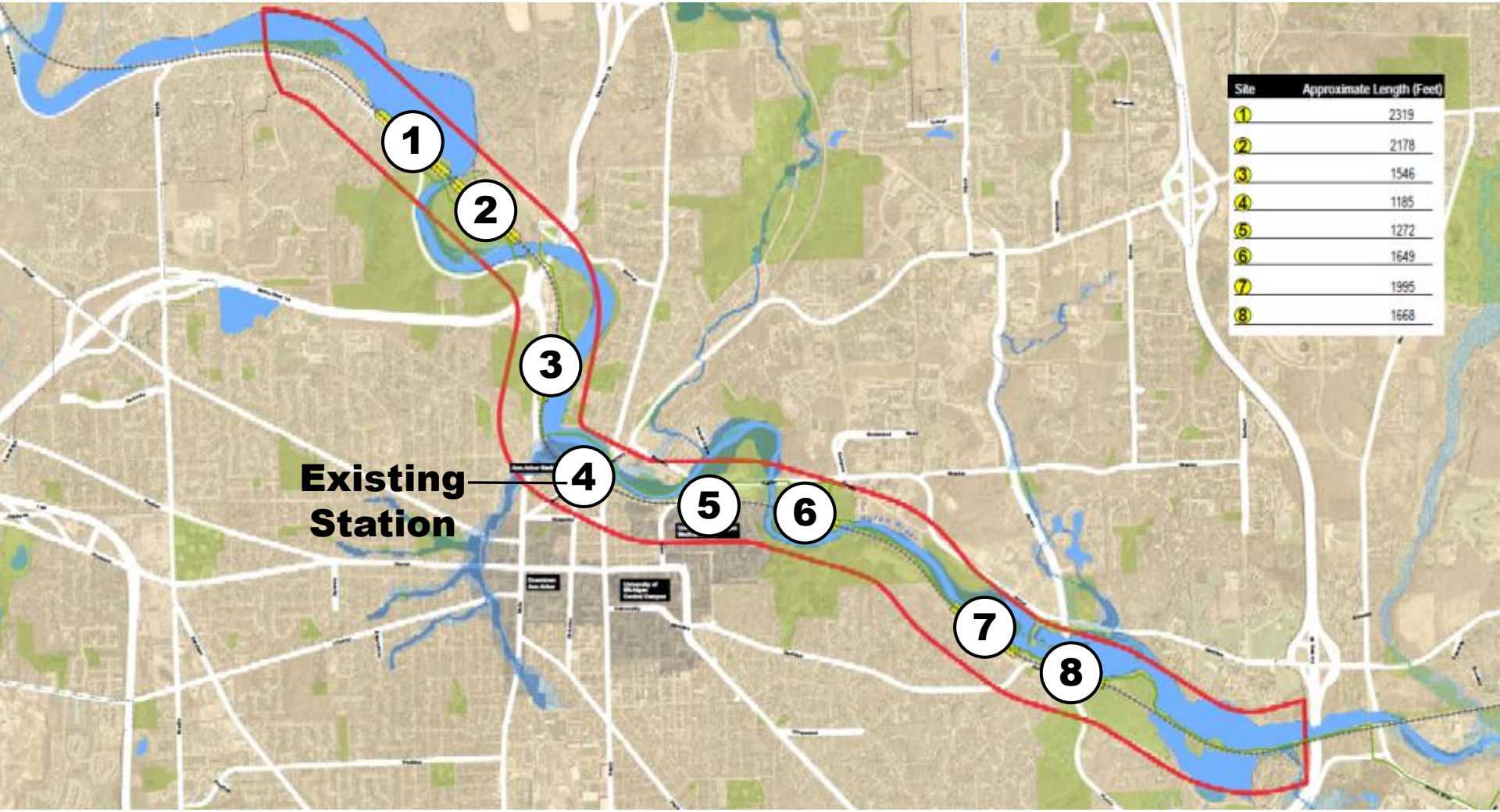
- Station Building & Platform
- Access drives/circulation/drop-off areas
- Parking (at grade vs. structure)
- Accessible facilities
- Non-motorized paths
- Landscaping/green areas
- Lighting & Security
- Utilities & Stormwater management

Site Selection Criteria

The essentials …

- 1000 feet of straight track (MDOT/Amtrak standards), with usable land for station facilities
- Convenient access to downtown Ann Arbor and major trip generators
- Site must be large enough for all proposed components
- Accessed by existing roadway corridor
- Minimize impacts

1000’ Straight (Tangent) Track Segments



Straight Segments 1-4:

1. W. Huron River Drive
2. Barton Shore Drive
3. N. Main Street
4. Depot Street (Existing Amtrak Station)…

Straight Segments 5-8:

5. Fuller Road (West)
6. Fuller Road (East)
7. Geddes Avenue (West)
8. Geddes Avenue (East)

Next Steps

- Gather your input
- Analysis of 1000-foot segments & adjoining sites
- Follow-up meetings in June

Questions?

Discussion

Public Comments

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Thank You

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