



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

301 E. Huron St., P.O. Box 8647 • Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

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Ann Arbor Station Environmental Review Combined Work Session of the Energy, Environmental and Planning Commissions Meeting Notes—5-13-14

Attendees: **Environmental Commission:** Susan Hutton, Kirk Westphal

Energy Commission: Wayne Appleyard (Chair), Mark Clevey (Vice Chair), Erik Eibert, Elizabeth Gibbons, Charles Hookham, Shoshannah Lenski, Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, Ken Wadland, David Wright

Planning Commission: Kirk Westphal (Chair), Wendy Woods, Ken Clein, Paras Parekh, Eleanore Adenekan, Jeremy Peters, Bonnie Bona, Sabra Briere, Diane Giannola

Wendy Rampson, City of Ann Arbor
Matt Naud, City of Ann Arbor
Nate Geisler, City of Ann Arbor
Eli Cooper, City of Ann Arbor
Robert Gorski, URS

A brief introduction by Eli Cooper followed by Introduction of Robert, Bob, Gorski, URS. Bob presented a PowerPoint overview of the Ann Arbor Station Environmental Review.

Questions and answer period followed concluding with a period of direct comments offered by the attendees. The following list presents the issues discussed during the question and comment periods:

- Some of the sites appear remote and should not be subject to further consideration
- How are the ridership projections being developed? *Provided by MDOT. Discussion of the Midwest Regional rail Initiative and linking together areas from Minneapolis, St. Louis, Chicago and Detroit, among others.*
- What percentage of the project is funded by the federal government, city? *80% federal – 20% local may not all be city.*
- Who approves the project? *FRA approves Environmental review. The Station as a City project will be approved by Council. Existing City Council resolutions place this project before the voters for their consideration.*
- The facility should be designed relying on the low impact and sustainable features
- Is the Environmental Review (ER) process comprehensive enough to reach a decision to proceed with this investment? *An ER does not include fiscal considerations, among others.*
- Has the process included consideration of services such as Mega bus?
- Gateway—As a visitors' first impression of Ann Arbor this site should be provide a message about sustainable Ann Arbor.



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- Deemphasize parking for autos. The Ann Arbor transportation program encourages alternatives modes including walking, biking and local transit. Less emphasis is needed to accommodate parking. Parking, if provided, encourages more driving and automobile access to the station.
- Include mixed-use or multiple-use considerations going forward. The more activity on a site the more sustainable it is.
- Include consideration of increased mixed-use around the station or contained within it such as offices.
- Parking decisions should not just be accepted, We need to “turn their (AMTRAK’s) numbers on their head.
- Construction of a larger concrete parking structure will consume a large amount of energy. An assessment of the amount of energy needed to build this facility should be conducted.
- This station should be an energy “net zero” station. We should emphasize the need to comply with the City’s climate Action Plan
- UM hospital is the largest employer within walkability access to the proposed 8 sites and should receive consideration in the siting process.
- Providing parking should be done incrementally. It does not have to all be provided at once.
- Consider a shuttle bus strategy as an alternative to providing parking at the station.