



City of Lawrence

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January 19, 2012

Dear Stakeholder:

The City of Lawrence would like your input on the possibility of relocating City transit offices and the downtown transit hub to the Santa Fe Station (Amtrak/BNSF depot) located at 413 E. 7th Street. A briefing sheet, attached, provides an overview of this proposal. An open house on this subject will be held from 5-7 pm on Wednesday, February 1 at the Santa Fe Station. You are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Also, the City and the architects hired by KDOT to prepare Construction Documents for complete rehabilitation of the Santa Fe Station building would like to get feedback prior to beginning work on the documents. A briefing sheet is attached explaining the project. The architects will have additional information available at the open house and will be able to discuss the project in more detail.

If you are unable to attend the open house, you can submit your comments, questions, or concerns to:

Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager; dstoddard@lawrenceks.org ; 832-3413

-or-

Bob Nugent, Public Transit Administrator; rnugent@lawrenceks.org; 832-3464

-or-

Stan Hernly, Hernly Associates, Architect for Construction Documents project;
stan@hernly.com; 749-5806

We look forward to your input on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Diane Stoddard
Assistant City Manager



Public Transit Proposal Background:

Since the start of service the Lawrence Transit System has focused its operation on downtown Lawrence. In doing so it has been necessary to accommodate passengers that need to transfer from one route to another in order to complete their trip. To facilitate these critical transfers Lawrence Transit found it necessary to utilize two blocks in the 9th Street corridor as a "transfer hub." The typical activity at the transit hub includes the staging of multiple buses for loading and unloading of passengers.

At the current location many of the amenities commonly associated with this activity are lacking. This would include limited seating for passengers, lack of restrooms, lack of service information and the lack of a controlled (indoor) environment out of the elements. Since there is limited space and/or opportunity to accommodate these amenities at the current location Lawrence Transit has been actively investigating alternative locations.

For several years the City has been working to acquire the Santa Fe Station (BNSF Depot). The station is an active rail station, serving Amtrak passengers, and housing office space for a BNSF crew. The station also has a waiting room and restrooms.

The City has plans to eventually restore the historic building and improve the site, though no funding has been identified for these improvements at this time. Site plans call for relocation of some of the existing parking on the west side of the station to the east side, maintaining the existing brick parking lot on the west. To date, the City has not determined a permanent and productive use for the building in the future, except to maintain its current uses.

Since Lawrence Transit has been actively pursuing a new location that could accommodate future improvements the City has been evaluating the potential for the depot as a multimodal facility. Along with the continued use of the depot by Amtrak many of the underutilized portions of the depot could function as the Lawrence Transit Administrative office and transfer hub.

In order to use the depot for this function buses would have to line up along 7th Street, likely entering and exiting the station using 7th Street to minimize the impact on surrounding residential areas. If the transit hub were relocated to this location, there would be no degradation to any route serving the downtown. These routes would continue serving the downtown and would still enable passengers to board and alight in the downtown and surrounding areas. For those passengers that are destined for locations outside of the downtown (therefore transferring to another route) the indoor waiting area and restrooms would be a dramatic improvement.

Santa Fe Station Rehabilitation Background:

The City of Lawrence has been working for the past three years to acquire ownership of the Santa Fe Station from BNSF Railway. As part of that process the City hired a preservation architect, Hernly Associates, to prepare a Historic Structure Report for the building in 2009. The report assessed the condition of the building and recommended specific work for its complete rehabilitation.

In 2011 the City was awarded a grant from KDOT to prepare Construction Documents for the building's complete rehabilitation, and KDOT has selected Hernly Associates to prepare the documents. Work on the Construction Documents is scheduled to begin in February 2012.

Prior to beginning work on the Construction Documents, the City and the architects would like to explain their approach to the project and get public input on the specific construction work to be included in the documents. The general approach is to prepare the Construction Documents in several separate project packages that can be bid and completed as funds become available. The initial list of proposed project packages includes:

1. ADA Upgrades (Bathrooms, doors, etc.)
2. Egress/Code Modifications
3. Roofing & Fascia Restoration
4. Exterior Restoration (Masonry, Sealants, Paint)
5. Weatherization (Windows & Insulation)
6. Electrical Upgrades
7. HVAC Upgrades
8. Fire Suppression System
9. Canopy Posts and Soffits Restoration, and Sidewalk Replacement
10. Interior Restoration - Floors, Walls, Ceilings, Base, Doors, Casework, & Window Treatments (curtains and blinds)

It is anticipated the rehabilitation Construction Documents will be sufficient to allow the building to accommodate its use by the Lawrence Transit System. Specific site construction documents that would accommodate the Lawrence Transit System are not included as part of the project at this time.