

PennDOT looking to redevelop Harrisburg train station, surrounding areas

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HARRISBURG, Pa. (WHTM) – A major transportation hub in Harrisburg is worn down and in need of repairs. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and city leaders are asking for input from the community during the upcoming “Visioning Week” to revitalize it and the Market Street corridor.

The Harrisburg Transportation Center opened in 1887. PennDOT is hoping a new project can breathe life into it and the surrounding areas, many of which have boarded-up buildings, graffiti, and shattered windows.

“Some of the areas immediately adjacent to the station have fallen into disuse,” said Rich Kirkpatrick, a spokesperson with PennDOT.

PennDOT is kicking off a study to revamp the Harrisburg Transportation Center, as well as a four-block area north of it between State and Mulberry Streets, Cameron Street, and the train tracks.

Another major point of interest is the former U.S. Post Office building on Market Street.



“Is it possible for additional retail outlets? Is it possible for additional residential complexes nearby? It’s all the sorts of development that would enhance the City of Harrisburg, enhance ridership for the transportation system, and just in general lead to a better quality of life,” Kirkpatrick said.

Ray Charles, of Philadelphia, says he takes the train into Harrisburg several times a month.

About 1.6 million people travel through the train station in Harrisburg each year.

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abc27News, September 5, 2016

page 2

"I'd like to have a restaurant to go to while I'm waiting for my train," Charles said. "Currently right now, I'm just sitting here charging my phone."

PennDOT says tens of millions of dollars could be spent redeveloping the Harrisburg Transportation Center alone. 1.6 million people use it each year, with about 28 Amtrak trains coming through each day.

"It would bring in more jobs and more businesses. I even think more people will be willing to even ride the train and use the services around in the area more often," Charles said.

"We're taking the next step in trying to extend that prosperity out to the surrounding neighborhoods," Kirkpatrick said.

Visioning Week will be held from September 19th to the 22nd with different morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. [Click here for more information](#). You can take a survey by [clicking here](#).

The study will look at different scenarios for redevelopment after Visioning Week. The goals are to start rebuilding, attract businesses, and connect to the train station and nearby neighborhoods.

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