

All Aboard: PennDOT Seeks Bid on Site Preparation for Long-awaited Train Station

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A contract to begin preparing the site of the new Middletown passenger train station will be awarded this month or in early June by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, a department spokeswoman said.

PennDOT has advertised for bids for the first phase of the Amtrak station project, including the demolition of a metal frame storage building on the site along West Main Street, as well as fencing, drainage work and other site preparation, said PennDOT spokeswoman Erin Waters-Trasatt.

The first phase does not include any rail or track work. PennDOT hopes that rail and track work can begin later this year, depending upon the availability of workers from Norfolk Southern and Amtrak, Waters-Trasatt said.

The long-planned train station will be located just west of the Westporte Centre shopping center and will replace the existing Amtrak station on Mill Street.

The project also includes building a pedestrian bridge across West Main Street (Route 230) from the Penn State Harrisburg campus side to the new train station and extending West Emaus Street to West Main Street to provide a more direct route to downtown Middletown.

PennDOT officials hope to begin construction of the new station sometime in 2016. The project will take about two years to complete.

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