



Middletown residents share ideas for train station

By Monica Von Dobeneck | Special to PennLive
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Middletown residents who have been helping the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation design a new train station have been telling a consultant over the past three days that they want ample parking, easy access for cars, pedestrians and bicycles, restaurants or coffee shops next door, and a design that fits in with the history and style of the borough.

At a meeting Thursday to summarize the three-day community design workshop, PennDOT consultant Blake Drury of Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin in Florida presented sketch designs of the four sites PennDOT is still considering for the train station -- the present site, the old A.P. Green warehouse site on Ann Street, lot 29 east of Harrisburg International Airport, and the airport itself.

Most of the people attending Thursday's meeting favored the Ann Street site because it is in the borough, provides easy access to downtown, the Penn State Harrisburg campus and the airport, and seems to have the fewest engineering challenges.

The property is owned by developer James Nardo and his family, who already plan to develop the site and a neighboring one. Paul McNamee, a consultant for the Nardos, said the family likes the idea of building the train station there if the timing works with the rest of their plans.

PennDOT deputy secretary Toby Fauver said the agency should choose one of the sites by early next year and start creating plans. Optimistically, the station could open within three years, he said.

Area residents can continue to make comments and present ideas on the Web site, www.planthekeystone.com.

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