



## Ann Street location works best for Amtrak

By Patriot-News Editorial Board  
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The question of where the new Middletown Amtrak station should be located is down to two choices. One is the Harrisburg International Airport location on Route 230 and the other is the nearby Ann Street location on Route 230 right next to Penn State Harrisburg.

There are advantages to both, but the one that brings the most benefit to area residents, commuters, Middletown Borough and plans for economic development of the area is the Ann Street location.

It easily serves the quickly growing Penn State Harrisburg campus, the redevelopment of the A.P. Green property, is close to Harrisburg International Airport, allows for direct pedestrian access from adjacent neighborhoods, is expected to have at least 115 parking spaces and is within close proximity to downtown Middletown.

In addition, the borough has already approved redevelopment plans for that area.

The need for a new location came about because the existing platform is too low and shorter than Amtrak's minimum standard length while the station platform is unable to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act.

PennDOT is expected to make a decision within the next few weeks. Both sites have issues, though an engineering analysis of all the proposed locations showed that HIA and Ann Street were the two that had no identifiable problems that couldn't be solved.

Final cost and workability factors will be involved in the final decision. But if they can be worked out, Ann Street provides the most benefits. The engineering study noted, for example, that while the HIA proposed location offers excellent connectivity to the airport and services such as rental cars and taxis, the reality is that research has shown that rail ridership and airport uses do not receive much benefit from each other for an airport of HIA's size.

This is a great opportunity for the Middletown area, and PennDOT is to be commended for all the input it has sought and sifted through in working toward a solution.

*source: [www.pennlive.com](http://www.pennlive.com)*