



PennDOT creates plan to complete Middletown Amtrak station by 2013

By Phyllis Zimmerman, Special to PennLive
On September 04, 2011 at 8:38 AM

A new Middletown Amtrak station could be ready for commuters by 2013, a state Department of Transportation representative told Middletown Borough Council on Aug. 23.

"We're still 100 percent committed to the new station. The funding is in place. It's nailed down. It just may seem like seeing a glacier move right now," said Robert Garrett, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation executive assistant.

The new station will be next to the A.P. Green warehouse on Ann Street and Route 230, a site favored by borough and public opinion, according to Amtrak's Keystone Line website.

An engineering study determined that the existing station on Mill Street requires upgrades that would be too costly to comply with the American With Disabilities Act.

The Mill Street station would have to be moved because it is on a curve, which would require a new bridge over Swatara Creek.

The new station is estimated to cost \$30 million, with PennDOT paying 20 percent, Garrett said. The Federal Transit Administration will pay the remaining 80 percent.

For now, PennDOT is "just going through the processes," Garrett said, working on right-of-way land acquisition and federal environmental clearance.

Borough Council approved a land development plan for the project earlier this year.

"We're very excited about this project. We wish that it could be done sooner, but we're very glad that you chose Middletown for this," Council President Diana McGlone told Garrett.

For updated information about the new train station's progress, go to www.planthekeystone.com.

source: www.pennlive.com