

## Coatesville train station needs support of citizens

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Artist's rendering of proposed renovations to the Coatesville train station.

You could get all sorts of clichés and metaphors rolling out for the discussion of the Coatesville train station.

Last week the Coatesville Redevelopment Authority released a new rendering of the Coatesville train station. The station will include space for the proposed career and learning center.

So you could say that the train station will be doing things like “moving” people forward in their lives via education. Or that the station’s career center will put people “on track” to success.

All clichés aside, however, the station does represent another chance for the City of Coatesville to move forward with its effort to climb out of the economic and other sorts of doldrums it has suffered with for more time than anyone would like to admit or talk about.

It was last year that state Sen. Andy Dinniman announced that plans to include a Career Training and Education Center in the Coatesville train station project were in the works. He said communication with representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, PennDOT, revealed their commitment to see the project move forward.

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*page 2*

The new train station renderings — posted on the city's website — include a street scape drawing of the proposed train station waiting area and the potential home of the training center.

The training center and waiting area are planned to be built in two-phases between North Third and Fourth avenues.

During a conversation on the Redevelopment Authority's, or RDA's, failed attempt to bring on a developer for "the flats" — 28 acres of undeveloped land located on Route 30, west of Route 82 near the Brandywine Creek in Coatesville — Dinniman said the training center project will be funded using a combination of state and federal grants. The first floor waiting area for train passengers will be funded by PennDOT, he said.

Before the final plans for the training center are complete and approved, Dinniman said it's important for the community to share the vision of the training center. He said another community-style discussion will be held for stakeholders and community members to share input on the training center's design. A similar forum was set last year to allow the community to share ideas and concerns about the future development along Fleetwood Street in the city.

The overall idea of the training and education center is to "contribute to economic revitalization of the city" by creating jobs for Coatesville residents "without hurting the tax base of a city that is already having difficulty budget wise," Dinniman said.

A 420-car parking garage is also planned for construction closer to North Third Avenue.

PennDOT dedicated \$20 million toward the overall development of the train station in Coatesville, acting as a part of the revitalization of the Keystone Corridor. The station in Coatesville was named on a list of sites PennDOT was interested in seeing constructed as a train station linking Harrisburg to Philadelphia.

Any major project in Coatesville must have the understanding and support of Coatesville residents. The city cannot afford to have anything like the train station project fail.

We urge Coatesville residents to get involved in projects such as this, to support them and defend them. PennDOT is willing to shell out \$20 million toward the overall development of the station. That's not pocket change.

Let's show the state what the city is made of and make this a key component of redevelopment of the city. Here's your chance Coatesville.

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