Northwest Corridor Transit Study





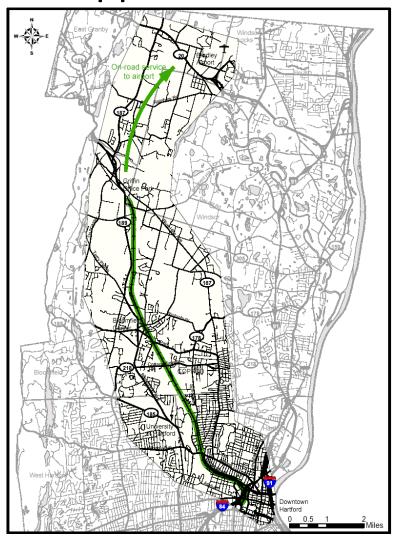






Purpose of Study

Support Future Development of Griffin Busway







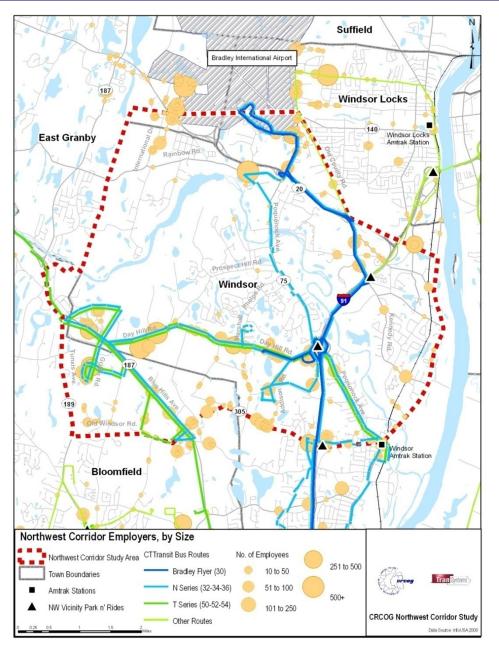
3 Elements to Study

- 1.Build ridership in the Northwest corridor to Day Hill Road and Airport areas
- 2.Evaluate Union Station (condition, role as an intermodal center), recommend improvements
- Develop downtown transit circulation system that will accommodate busway service.

1. Build Ridership: Approach

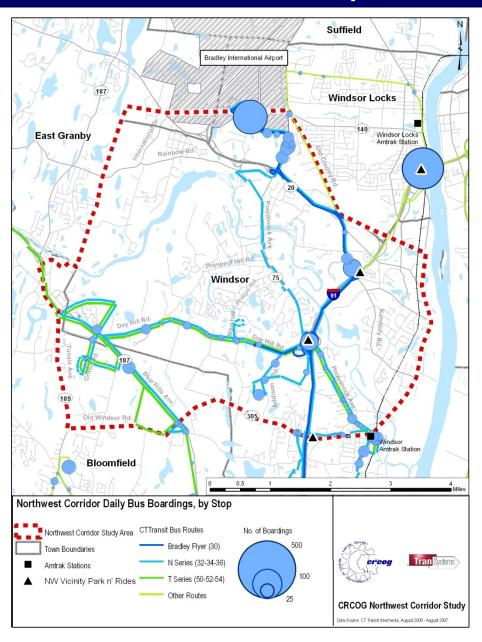
- Understand:
 - > Corridor demographics and development
 - > Employment
 - > Travel patterns
 - > Transit service and use
 - > Attitudes
- Develop transit service plan
- Develop land use guidelines

1. Build Ridership: Employers



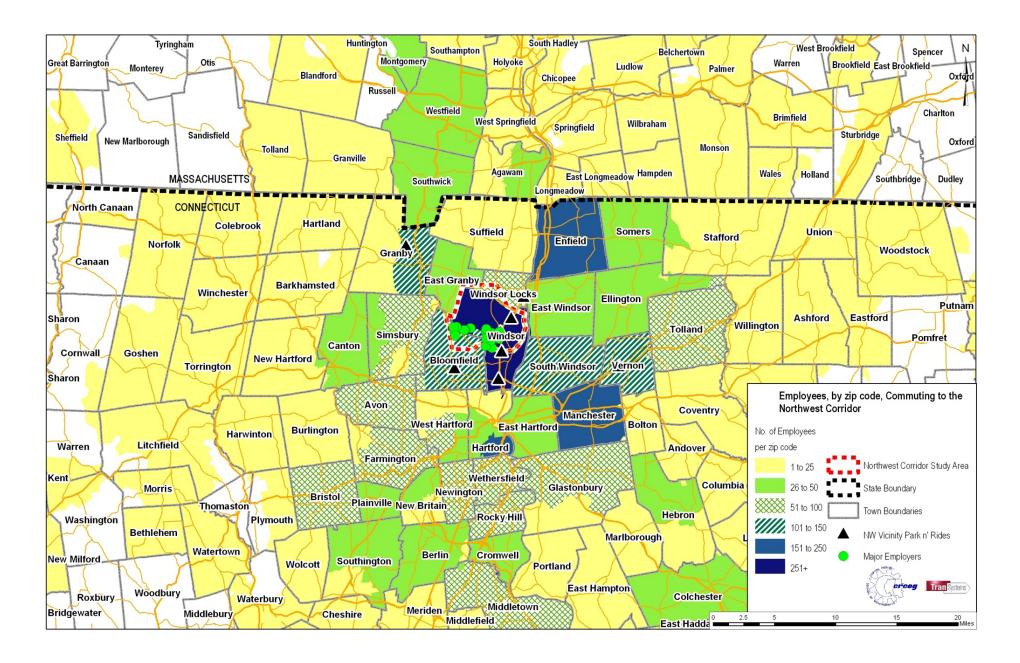
- Three main corridors:
 - Griffin/Day Hill Road
 - Route 20/Bradley Airport
 - > Route 305 corridor
- Relatively few employers above 500 employees, many in the 100 to 500 range
- Some clusters have no transit service

1. Build Ridership: Existing transit use



- CTTRANSIT has adjusted routes to meet needs of employers
- Ridership has been growing
- Most Park & Ride lots have capacity
- No suburban express service to corridor

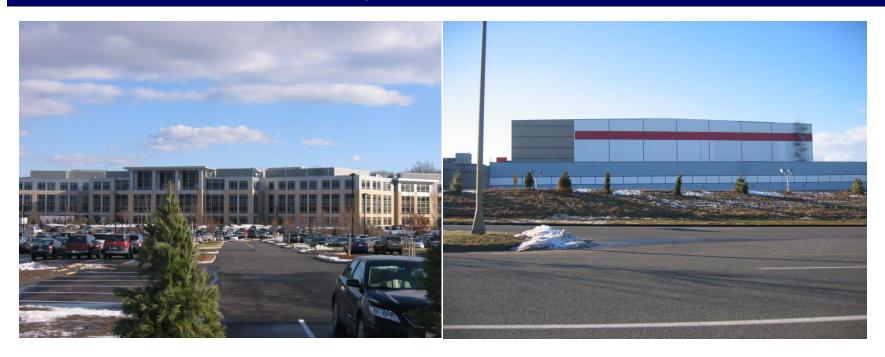
1. Build Ridership: Commute Origins



1. Build Ridership: Development Trends

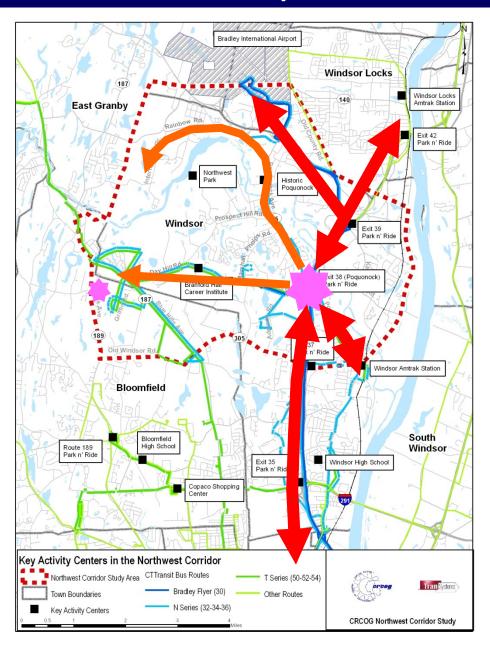
- 1,100 vacant acres, over 270 acres have been developed in the last 6 years
- Office space has increased notably
- Significant new developments:
 - The ING move has added over 2000 new office workers, including many that took transit
 - The Hartford consolidated employees and brought new employees to the corridor
 - ➤ Walgreens distribution center 1/3 of work force will be disabled
- New Plan adopted by Town for Corridor

1. Build Ridership: Difficulties for Transit



- Typical large suburban office developments
 - > Setback distances
 - Plentiful, free parking
- Few pedestrian amenities
- Weekend and evening shifts
- Transfers required from most residential locations

1. Transit Improvement Concept



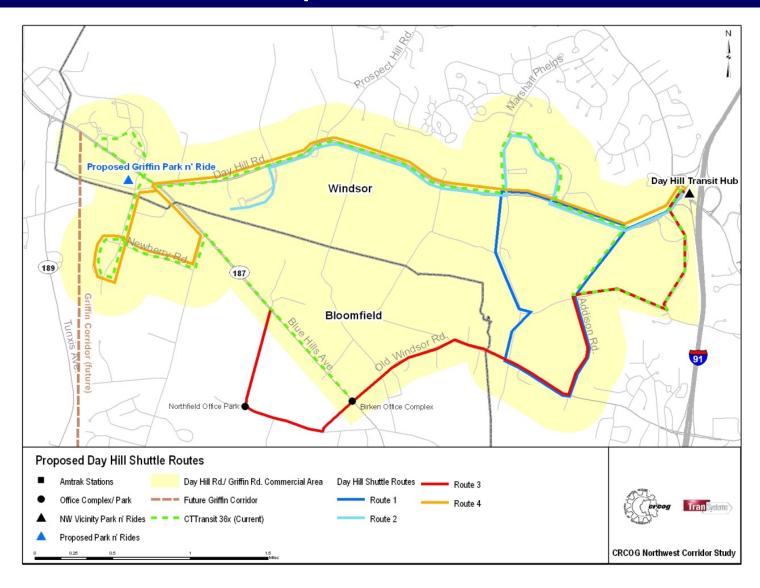
Concept:

- Provide transit hub
- Strengthen trunk service
- •Improve distribution to employment sites

1. Build Ridership: Recommendations

- Create transit hub at Exit 38 Park & Ride
- Create Griffin Park & Ride Lot
- Modify Existing service:
 - Hours and frequency
 - Divert Enfield Express Service
- Establish cross town express routes
 - Vernon Manchester to Park & Ride Hub
 - Granby Express via Day Hill Road
- Establish local network of shuttle buses

1. Build Ridership: Shuttles



Four shuttles, enhancing CTTRANSIT service

1. Build Ridership: Supporting Measures

- 1. Bus stop amenities
- 2. Pedestrian amenities
- 3. Expand Guaranteed Ride Home Program
- Transportation Management Association (TMA)
 - Private, non-profit association
 - Promote alternative transportation
 - Facilitate the pooling of resources







2. Union Station: Approach

Improve Union Station: Transportation Hub and Destination

- Existing services
- New busway and commuter rail
- Encourage joint development
- Union Station as a transit center
- Vehicular and pedestrian access
- Building condition

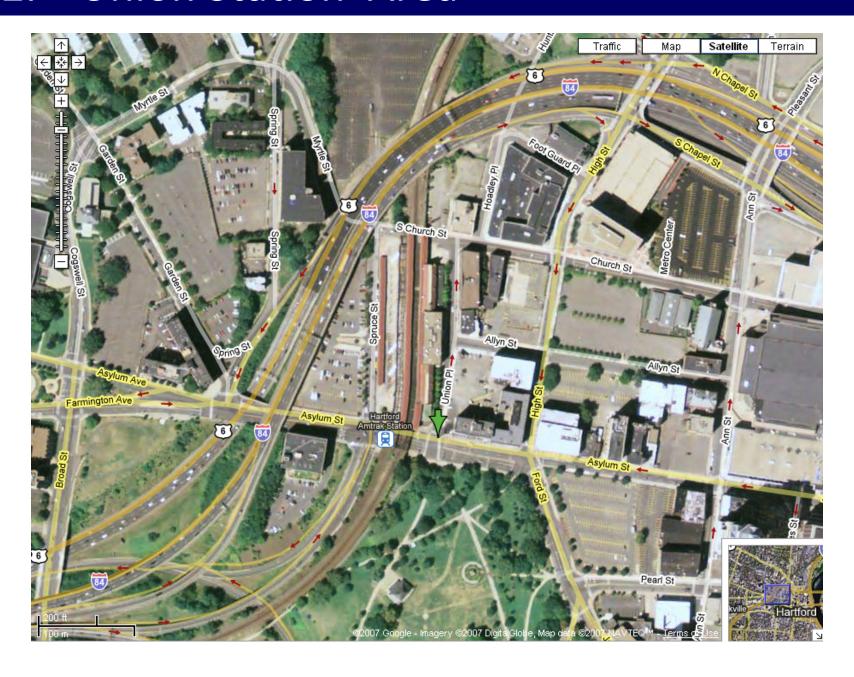








2. Union Station Area



2. Union Station: Building Condition

- Structure good shape (except Amtrak trestle)
- Mechanicals boilers, chillers, water heater, piping need replacing
- Intercity bus loading area:
 - Pavement needs repair
 - Drainage problems
- Transportation Center: Dated; Roof Drainage Issues
- Energy improvements
 - Windows
 - Lighting
- Utilization of space:
 - Inaccessible space on second floor
 - Great Hall underutilized



2. Union Station: Access

- Bus/taxi/pedestrian operations at Union
 Station
- Traffic concerns:
 - > Asylum/Spruce
- Pedestrian safety
- Bicycle Access
- Wayfinding
- Increased parking demand
- Busway circulation

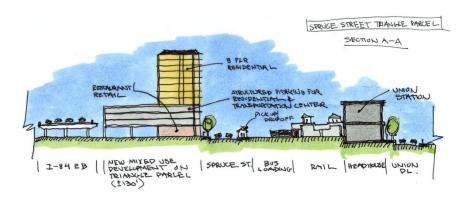


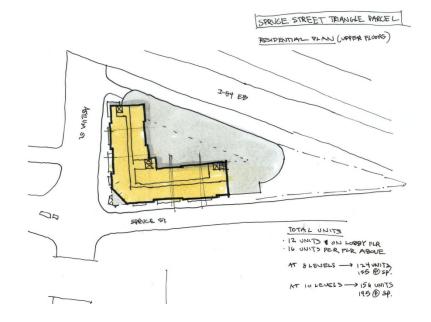




2. Union Station: Recommendations

- Make shortterm improvements
- Longer term:
 - Expand and renovate transportation center
 - Provide for development on Spruce Street Lot
 - Provide for greater city bus presence?

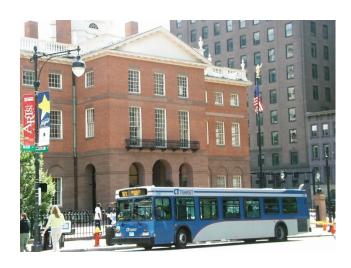




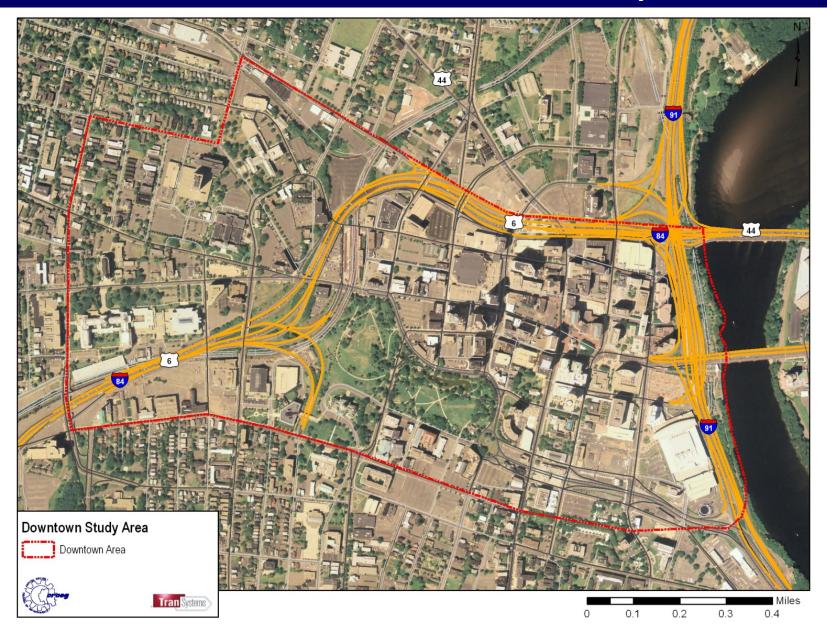
3. Downtown Circulation: Approach

Data collection

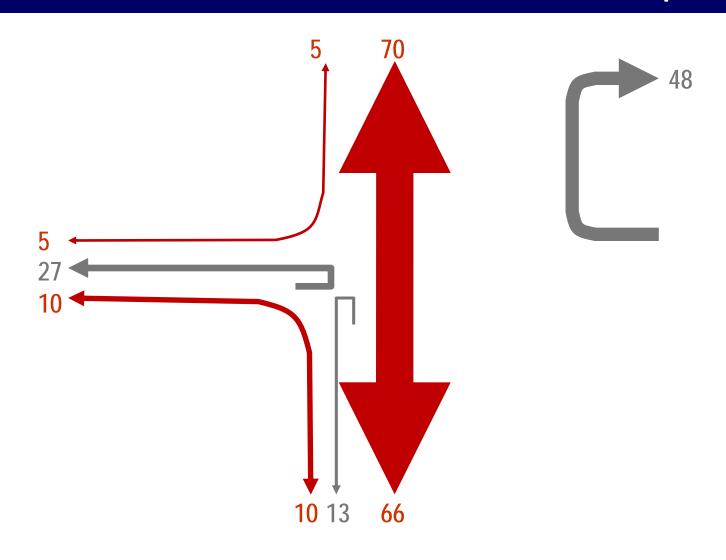
- > Current downtown transit services
- > Current downtown ridership
- Key downtown connections and destinations
- > Future busway routes, ridership, and transfers
- Can the services be made to work better for:
- Passengers
- Connecticut Transit
- > Downtown traffic
- Downtown businesses and residents



3. Downtown Circulation: Study Area



Downtown PM Peak Period Bus Trips



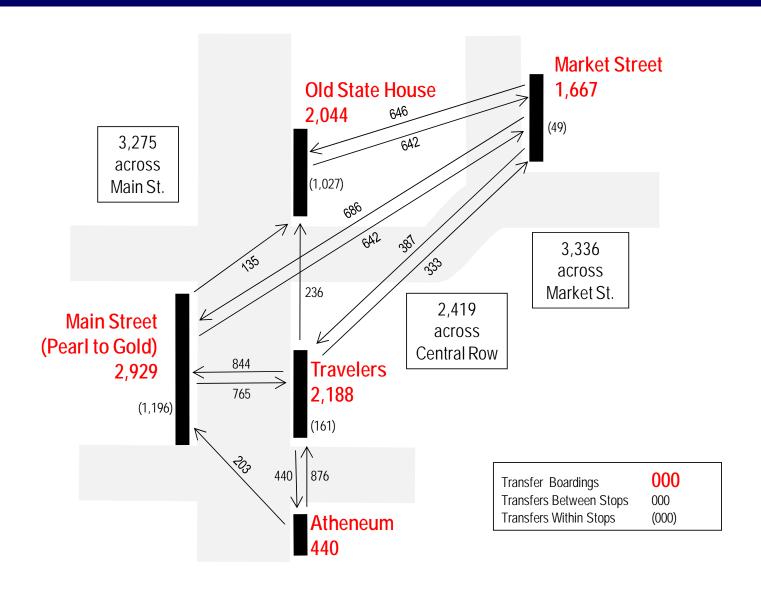
3. Downtown Circulation: Findings

- High transfer rate
- Most other passengers destined for Main Street
- Tight curb space for buses on Main Street
- Crowded sidewalks with people waiting for buses
- Many bus stops don't have shelters
- Conflicts between vehicle traffic and transferring passengers





Daily Downtown Local Bus Transfer Movements



3. Downtown Circulation: Options

- Downtown Transfer Center
- Eliminates many auto/pedestrian conflicts
- Provides a place for buses to wait off the street
- Can make system more understandable
- Can improve on time performance
- New Downtown Routing Scheme without Transfer Center
- Current circulation patterns appear optimal





Strategy for Improving Downtown Service

- Provide a transit center
- Maintain stop on all routes at or near the central area of Main St
- Maximize through routing
- Improve transfer connections/amenities for transfers outside the transit center
- Expand service to the west side of downtown as well as Union Station
- Consider expansion of service east of Main Street to developments along Columbus Boulevard

3. Downtown Circulation: Transit Center

- 14 to 19 bus bays
 - 3 minimum for bus rapid transit
 - > 11 minimum for local bus
- Climate Controlled waiting space
- Rectangular space most efficient







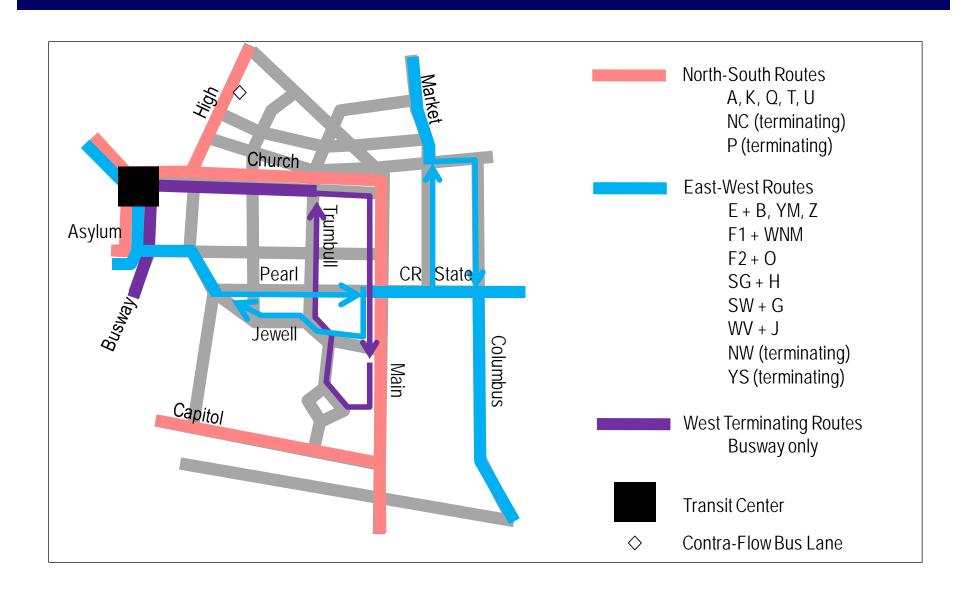
3. Downtown Circulation: TC Locations

- Alternative 1 Develop a transit center on the southwest side of downtown.
- Alternative 2 Develop a transit center on the northwest side of downtown.
- Alternative 3 Develop 3 smaller transit centers on the north, south and west sides of downtown.
- Alternative 4 maintain a centrally located transfer point by developing an on street transit center east of Main Street.

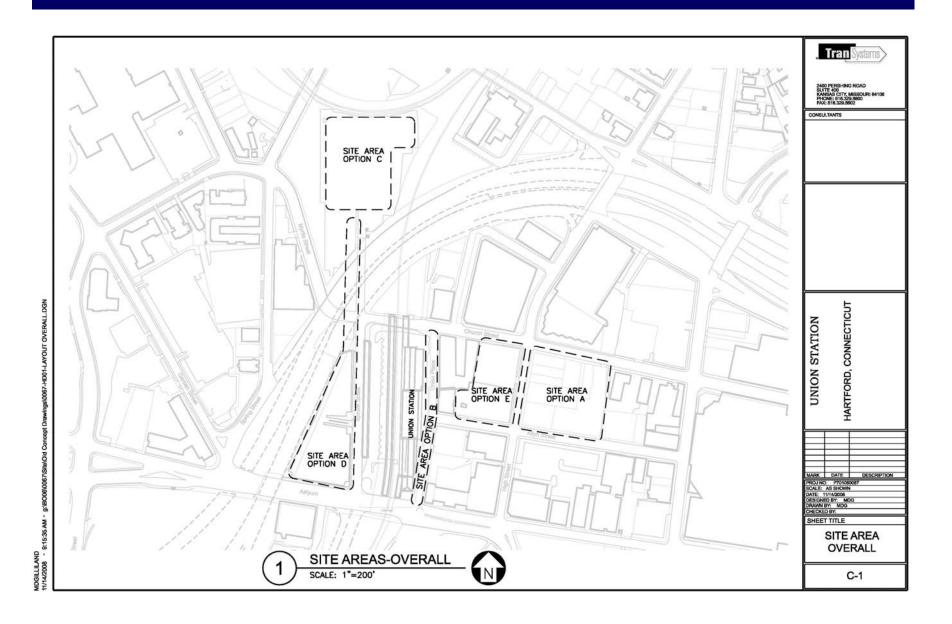
3. Downtown Circulation: Evaluation

- Effective use of Transit Center
 - Utilization of Transit Centers
 - Capital cost
 - Capacity/quality of Center
- Efficiency and Effectiveness of Service
 - > Through and Transferring Riders
 - Riders into Downtown
 - Riders Within Downtown
 - Operating Costs
- Traffic Impacts
 - > Traffic Issues and Circulation Changes Needed
 - Bus volumes

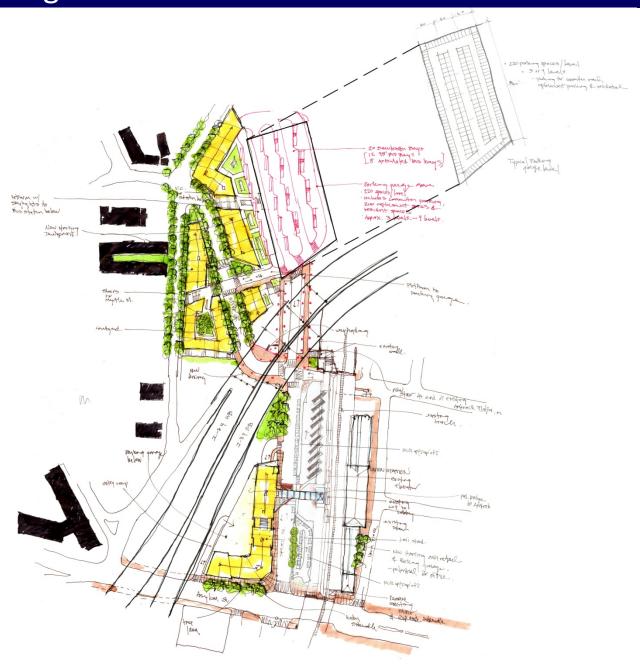
3. Downtown Circulation: Recommendation



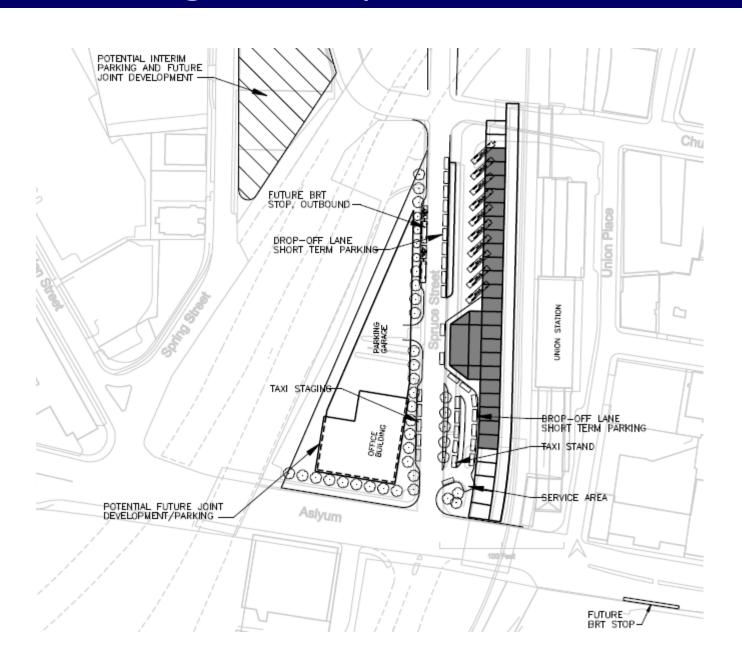
Bringing it Together: the Union Station Intermodal Complex



Bringing it Together: the Union Station Intermodal Complex



Design Concept – Union Station



What Will It Cost?

- Day Hill Transit Improvements:
 - > Capital: \$5 million
 - > Operating: \$1.4 million
- Transit Center:
 - > Capital: as much as \$25 million
 - > Operating: \$1.5 million
- Union Station:
 - Capital: \$5 to \$10 million

Summary of Issues Requiring Further Study

- Transit operating cost/implications
- In depth traffic evaluation
- Parking requirements for commuter rail
- Bus/taxi/pedestrian operations at Union Station
- Possible intersection improvements
- Pedestrian safety
- Bicycle access

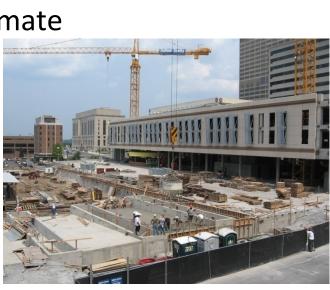


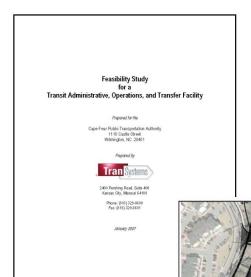




Next Steps for Transit Center

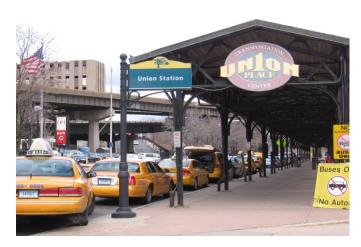
- Feasibility Study
 - > Programming of space needs
 - > Refine site selection process
 - > NEPA
 - Concept Design
 - > Preliminary Cost Estimate
- Design
- Construction





Next Steps for Union Station

- Shortterm Repairs
- Architectural Study
 - Programming of space needs
 - > NEPA
 - Concept Design
 - Preliminary Cost Estimate
- Design
- Construction





Next Steps for Study

- Public Meeting:
 - ➤ May 26, 6 PM
 - > Hartford Public Library
- Adopt Plan
- Locate funding for implementation
- Begin Implementation
 - ➤ Develop TMA Day Hill area
 - > Feasibility Study Transit Center
 - > Architectural study Union Station

For Further Information

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