



# *News Release*

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## **Transportation Authority, County of Monroe, City of Rochester Reach Agreement on Downtown Transit Center**

The Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, County of Monroe, and City of Rochester held a news conference this morning to announce that they have agreed to move forward on the construction of a downtown transit center.

“A few months ago the City of Rochester announced their support of the downtown transit center and asked us to consider alternatives. We have been working cooperatively with the County of Monroe and the City of Rochester to agree upon a concept for the transit center,” said Donald J. Riley, Chief Executive Officer. “We are very pleased to announce today that we have reached an agreement on the concept and location.”

The downtown transit center will provide appropriate shelter from Rochester weather for RTS, Lift Line and Greyhound/Trailways passengers as they transfer buses.

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More than 154,000 RTS passengers transfer downtown each week and over 600,000 Greyhound/Trailways passengers travel through Rochester annually. The facility will serve as a catalyst for economic development in the surrounding neighborhood.

“We are very pleased that the County, City and Transportation Authority have resolved the issues related to the downtown transit center. This project can now cooperatively move forward to the design stage,” said Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle. “I have always been, and continue to be, confident that this will be a major redevelopment project in the heart of our community.”

Construction of the transit center is proposed on a newly created Stone Street that will extend north of Main Street all the way to Andrews Street. This new extension will be pedestrian only from Main Street to Mortimer Street and covered. Buses will move below grade, feeding off Clinton Avenue and St. Paul Street. The existing Mortimer Street will be moved north to directly align with the existing Chamber of Commerce Building.

“We have always been committed to projects that could improve downtown Rochester and help revitalize our center city,” said Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr. “And we have always been committed to working with all of the parties involved to find a solution that would be acceptable to everyone.”

“I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Transportation Authority for taking our concerns into consideration regarding the design of the transit center. I look forward to the success of this project with great anticipation,” said Johnson.

Passengers will access the street via escalators to a pedestrian promenade lined with retail and other consumer opportunities. The promenade will also provide access to the downtown skyway system through the Mortimer Street garage.

“Today’s announcement bodes very positive things for our community in the days to come,” said Dennis Pelletier, President, Monroe County Legislature. “This spirit of cooperation has moved us forward on this project and I am optimistic it will allow us to proceed on others.”

The northwest corner of Main and Clinton will be razed to create a development opportunity which the Transportation Authority, City and County will work cooperatively on. All three parties will also work to develop the area north of the reconfigured Mortimer Street.

“We are pleased that the serious concerns we had expressed about this project have been addressed by the land use and design changes that are proposed for the Stone Street Station,” said Lois Giess, City Council President. “We believe it will enable and foster connections through this quadrant of the Center City that will lead to exciting new development opportunities.”

The Transportation Authority is currently working with The Goodman Corporation in preparing the design objectives and community needs assessment for the transit center. Input has been solicited from passengers, surrounding property owners, and many other organizations in assessing the community’s needs. The Transportation Authority will continue to obtain input from the public for the duration of the project.

A team of staff representatives from the Transportation Authority, the County of Monroe, and the City of Rochester will work cooperatively on all aspects of the transit center project including design, construction and funding issues.

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