
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY BRIEFING PAPER

Project: **Multimodal Transportation Facility For Kent, Ohio**
Project Description: 1.) Transit Terminal for KSU Campus Bus Service, Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), Cleveland RTA, Akron METRO, and Inter-City Bus Service (Greyhound);
2.) Connection to Regional and Campus Bicycle Trail System;
3.) Pedestrian Connections to Campus and Downtown Kent;
4.) Future connection to expanded regional passenger rail system, and;
4.) Parking Structure.
Project Cost: \$12,200,000
\$9,760,000 Federal Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund, 2003 Federal Fiscal Year
\$2,440,000 Local Share Costs

CONTEXT

Beginning in November 2001, a Coordinating Committee comprised of officials from Kent State University, the City of Kent, and the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) entered into a **collaborative planning process to locate and construct a Multimodal Transportation Facility (MMF)** around the Kent State University campus. As part of this planning effort, key community and University stakeholders were asked to discuss their vision of the City of Kent in the future, and discuss the links between the University and the City as they relate to the vision. Stakeholders also identified supports and barriers to achieving the vision, and mobility issues relating to achieving the vision. An evaluation of how this project supports the **University's Strategic Plan** and a review of **past and current master plans/planning initiatives** of the University and City was conducted.

VISION

These meetings resulted in an overriding consensus to build on and enhance the best assets of the City of Kent and the University, including a strong mutual desire to:

- **Revitalize the area between the City and KSU and stimulate economic development in Kent**
- **Create new physical and community linkage between the University and the City**
- **Boost the historic strengths of the area**
- **Attract, grow, and retain talented employees in this region, especially with the University's business incubator**
- **Create a sense of place and a community environment that enhances the quality of life for both long-term residents and students.**

Supported by language and intent of both the University's Strategic Plan and the Connections 2006 City Planning Document, the objective for both the University and the City is to move forward, focusing on this vision.

MULTIMODAL FACILITY

The Coordinating Committee quickly realized the impact a **Multimodal Transportation Facility (MMF)** could have by being the decisive project in area revitalization and by facilitating the achievement of various goals outlined in the adopted plans. This type of facility not only offers new mobility choices to the community, but also serves to be the catalyst for broad redevelopment efforts in the area from the campus to downtown. Other planning efforts to enhance alternative transportation choices and redevelopment efforts in the area include:

- **Bicycle paths**, extending through the campus and connecting Kent to other regional recreational bike path systems, and bicycle lockers
- **Pedestrian esplanades** providing stately boulevards to promote and enhance walking to and from downtown Kent as well as across campus

The MMF will provide other important mobility options by providing connections to and acting as a hub for **Regional (PARTA), Campus Bus Service, and Metropolitan Transit systems** (including Akron and Cleveland), promoting convenient transfers between those transit systems and all other modes of transportation in the area. It is the obvious location for inter-city bus service such as Greyhound. The MMF should also consider the need to connect with future commuter rail, if developed. Importantly, proper siting of the MMF will **reduce vehicle congestion** along streets adjoining the University by intercepting the flow of traffic before it reaches the campus core.

Just as compelling, the University and community see the MMF as the **cornerstone for economic redevelopment** efforts focused in the area between downtown and the University by providing an inviting meeting point between the two community destinations including:

- Support downtown and new area destinations such as the proposed **Hotel and Conference Center**
- **Community and campus housing** opportunities
- Small scale, pedestrian oriented **retail businesses**
- **Business incubator offices and facilities**

STAKEHOLDERS

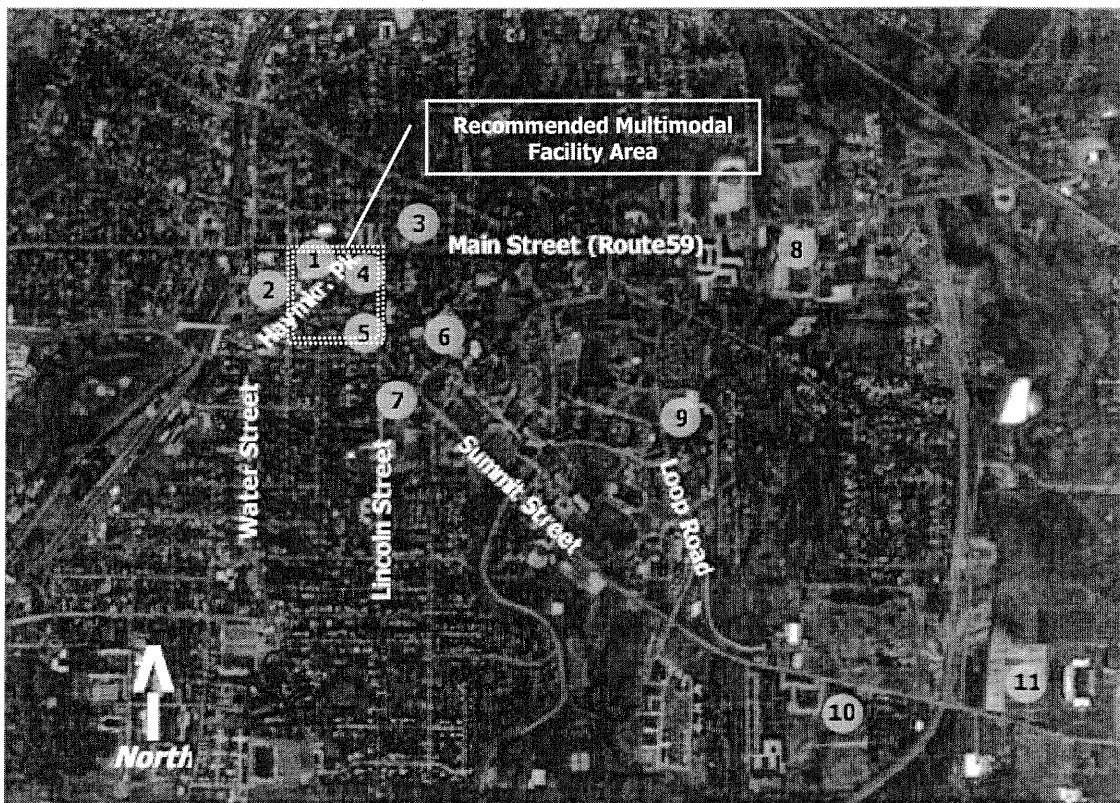
Groups involved in the process at either the Coordinating Committee or Stakeholder level include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PARTA staff and Board members | <input type="checkbox"/> Kent Inter-Hall Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kent Environmental Council | <input type="checkbox"/> University Student Senate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chamber of Commerce officials | <input type="checkbox"/> International Student Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kent Business entrepreneurs | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-traditional/Off-campus Student Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University Grant office | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Student Affairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portage County Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> University Administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Kent Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> KSU Parking staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community architects | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography Department |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> University architects |

SITE SELECTION

Kent State University, PARTA, and the City of Kent officials reviewed 11 sites, as noted on the map in Attachment A, that would be an appropriate location for a MMF. Four final sites were recommended to the University by the Coordinating Committee, all within an area located between the KSU campus and downtown Kent (DePeyster Street on the west, Main Street on the north, Lincoln Street on the east, and Summit Street on the south). This recommended area for the MMF represents the area that meets the majority of common goals identified in the planning process. The University endorses this recommendation of locating the MMF within this super block redevelopment area. Site-specific locations of this area are under internal University consideration and review.

Appendix A - Aerial Map of Multimodal Transportation Facilities Sites



Appendix B – Site Evaluation Ranking Sheet

CRITERIA	SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 3	SITE 4	SITE 5	SITE 6	SITE 7	SITE 8	SITE 9	SITE 10	SITE 11
	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating
1. Site Meets FTA Requirements	18	17	7	14	15	10	16	7	9	9	9
2. Location Is Easily Accessible To Hotel/Convention Center	24	23	8	14	13	6	12	6	6	6	5
3. Site Is Accessible To A Variety Of Transportation Modes (E.G. Can Surrounding Roads Handle Bus Traffic, Is There Safe Pedestrian Access?)	16	17	12	15	16	11	14	8	10	12	10
4. Location Has Minimum Visual And Traffic Impact On Nearby Neighborhoods	17	16	7	11	16	16	8	17	02	14	16
5. Location Of Facility Is Compatible With Both City And University Planning Documents	19	18	5	11	16	10	13	6	6	6	6
6. Site Allows Facility To Serve Both City And University Patrons	18	16	7	11	16	9	11	6	6	5	6
7. Location Creates A Physical Link Between The City And The University	16	15	6	12	15	6	11	5	5	5	5
8. Site Supports And Fosters Economic Development	15	14	7	12	17	5	11	6	5	6	6
9. Creates University And Community Gateway	16	14	7	16	19	5	14	6	8	10	6
10. Cost Of Improvements And Site Preparation (High Cost = Low Rating)	10	10	5	10	15	16	9	6	9	15	14
Total	169	160	71	126	158	94	119	73	76	88	83

Appendix C – Coordinating Committee and Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Stakeholder Group	Participant(s)	Focus of Meeting	Date
<p>University/Community Leadership Stakeholders</p>	<p>Kent State University: David Creamer, VP, Bus. & Finance Lowell Croskey, Assoc. VP, Planning & Design Greg Jarvie, Dean of Students Sarah Bartolone, USS Jaelithe Russ, COSO City of Kent: Lew Steinbrecher, City Manager Dennis Missimi, Public Services Charley Bowman, Development PARTA: John Drew Local Businesses: Doug Fuller, Downtown Business Dan Smith, President, Chamber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe project program and discuss long term goals • Discuss "Vision" of Kent five years in future • Discuss physical relationship and mobility issues between the University and the City • Discuss strong and weak links between City and University • Identify important criteria for siting Multimodal Facility 	<p>11/13/01</p>
<p>KSU Students</p>	<p>Greg Jarvie, Dean of Students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss plan to identify student mobility issues • Develop schedule of student focus groups and meetings • Discuss student culture of driving and having a car on campus; parking policies and class schedules support culture of car 	<p>11/14/01</p>
<p>PARTA</p>	<p>John Drew, General Manager</p>	<p>Discuss PARTA plans for upcoming year following recent passage of sales tax levy, especially focus on demand response service seven days a week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe project program and discuss long term goals • Develop timeline for approaching US House and Senate Appropriations Committees • Identify key legislators 	<p>11/26/01</p>
<p>Congressman Sawyers Office</p>	<p>Louis Berroteran, District Director</p>	<p>Describe project program and discuss long term goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop timeline for approaching US House and Senate Appropriations Committees • Identify key legislators 	<p>11/26/01</p>

KSU Geography Department	Dr. Dave Kaplan	Discuss KSU University Transportation Center grant possibilities, details of research project	11/26/01
KSU Parking Department	Randy Ristow and Larry Emiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how parking policies affect transit use • Discuss parking pricing structure • Discuss Multimodal Facility in current parking context, potential locations for additional parking 	11/26/01
Kent Environmental Council (KEC)	Regular KEC Breakfast Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss construction of Multimodal facility and goal of improving access to regional public transportation, reducing congestion 	11/27/01
PARTA	Dave VanDerneut, PARTA Board Chairman Tom Albanese, PARTA Board of Trustees John Drew, General Manager Chris Smieles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss PARTA plans for upcoming year following passage of sales tax levy • Discuss PARTA support for Multimodal Facility • Discuss history of PARTA/Campus Bus operations, possibilities for collaboration • Discuss construction of Multimodal facility and goal of improving access to regional public transportation, reducing congestion 	11/27/01
Portage County Commission	Executive Committee Focus Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss student mobility concerns including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students did not expect to bring a car to campus, found out quickly they could drive and park easily. • Students perceive driving is quicker and easier than walking in spite of wait for parking spaces • Traffic, narrow sidewalks (or none) and dark paths make walking less favorable than driving 	11/27/01

Undergraduate Student Senate (USS)	Full Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss choice of using personal car over campus bus, • Identify campus locations where there are mobility and safety concerns • Discuss Campus Bus Service 	11/27/01
International Students	Dr. Charles Neiman, Advisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify demographics of foreign student population • Discuss typical destinations for foreign students on campus, especially shopping • Discuss need for consistent transportation to regional airports and train stations, other branches of KSU, NEUCOM 	11/28/01

Coordinating Committee:

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Tom Clapper, Director, Transportation Services; Committee Chair
 David Kotting, Manager, Transportation Services
 Brian G. Feeley, University Architect's Office

CITY OF KENT

Dennis Missimi, Director of Public Services
 Charley Bowman, Community Development Director

PARTA

John Drew, General Manager

Date	Meeting Objectives
10/23/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Committee • Describe Process and Timeline • Establish "Vision" of Kent five years in future • Identify "Barriers" and "Supports" to achieving this Vision
11/13/01	(Meeting with Coordinating Committee and Leadership Stakeholder Group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe project program and discuss long term goals • Discuss "Vision" of Kent five years in future • Discuss physical relationship and mobility issues between the University and the City • Discuss strong and weak links between City and University • Identify important Multimodal Facility siting criteria
11/27/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaffirm University and Community planning goals relating to Multimodal Facility • Discuss possible economic development partnerships and grant support potential • Discuss potential Multimodal Facility locations and site selection criteria • Discuss stakeholder interviews
1/10/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and rank eleven sites using selection criteria • Discuss process for getting formal city and PARTA endorsements