



# TRAIN STATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

Public Workshop

November 17, 2011

# AGENDA

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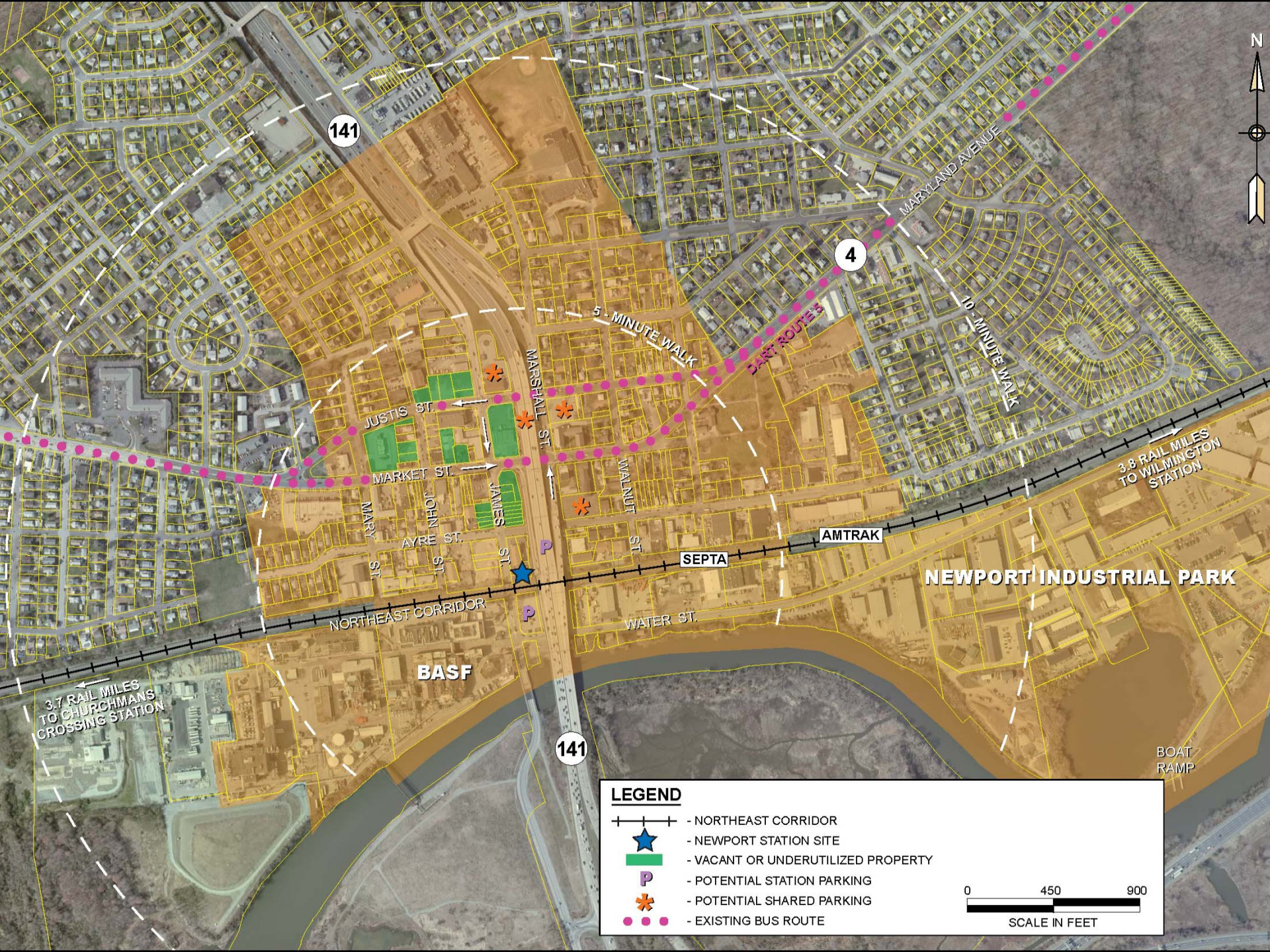
- Overview of the study
- How you can participate
- Questions

# NEWPORT TRAIN STATION FEASIBILITY STUDY OVERVIEW

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- Feasibility study for a SEPTA commuter rail station in Newport
- Opportunities for transit-oriented development or redevelopment





### LEGEND

- NORTHEAST CORRIDOR
- NEWPORT STATION SITE
- VACANT OR UNDERUTILIZED PROPERTY
- POTENTIAL STATION PARKING
- POTENTIAL SHARED PARKING
- EXISTING BUS ROUTE

0 450 900

SCALE IN FEET



# PROJECT SCOPE AND SCHEDULE

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1. Master Vision Plan
2. Identification of Issues, Opportunities, and Constraints
3. Circulation, Access, and Parking Plan
4. Implementation Policies
5. Public Engagement

WE ARE HERE

# MASTER VISION PLAN

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- Document review
- Two Advisory Committee meetings
  - Including a walking tour
- Public workshop

# VISIONING

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- What makes Newport special?
- What do you want Newport to be in the future?
- How do you think a Newport train station could benefit the Town?
- What transportation issues currently exist in Newport?

# What makes Newport special?

- GOOD ACCESS
- Nice, stable town – attractive to families
- Good police protection
- Rowing club
- Good schools
- Reasonably priced homes
- Good transit service
- Centrally located
- Charm, friendly and kind people
- Safe and convenient
- Business development potential – business friendly community
- Quality workforce
- Remaking of Conrad and DMA
- Fiskar plant is reopening
- Focus on eco-tourism: lagoon, parks, etc.
- Make Newport a place to live, work, and play
- Restaurants and shopping



# What do you want Newport to be in the future?

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- Make Newport an even better place to live, work, and play
- Environmental destination
- Serve the area beyond Newport – capitalize on new bus service
- Beautification/streetscape – build on what's been done “baby Manayunk”
- Quality development: shops and condos, not big box (especially local)
- “Second downtown station”
- Shopping destination
- Maintain the heritage of Newport while bringing it into the 21st century
- Grow without significantly changing the town's character

# How do you think a Newport train station could benefit the Town?

- Take the train to work, maybe eventually live here
- Bedroom community, with people working in Philadelphia
- Better access for business clients, including eating and shopping
- Draw people in from outside Newport – small business growth opportunity
- Tie to bus service – build on current success
- More access for lower income residents, especially to jobs
- Better potential for mixed-use development of underutilized properties
- Makes industrial business investment more attractive – marketing tool
- “Access to 1.1 million people” who use commuter rail in Delaware – future potential to double service, supporting SEPTA

# What transportation issues currently exist in Newport?

- Too much traffic
- Recognized as a speed trap
- Greenway connections outside the town
- Need to consider plenty of free parking with station development – use everything under the viaduct except Wilmington Trust
- James Street bridge needs “more than a face lift” – maybe raise it for better rowing/recreational access
- Route 5 doesn’t connect directly to the Wilmington station – a better connection is needed before a Newport station is built
- Maybe even consider phased structured parking
- 141 is a barrier to walking and bicycling – it’s also impossible to safely cross I-95

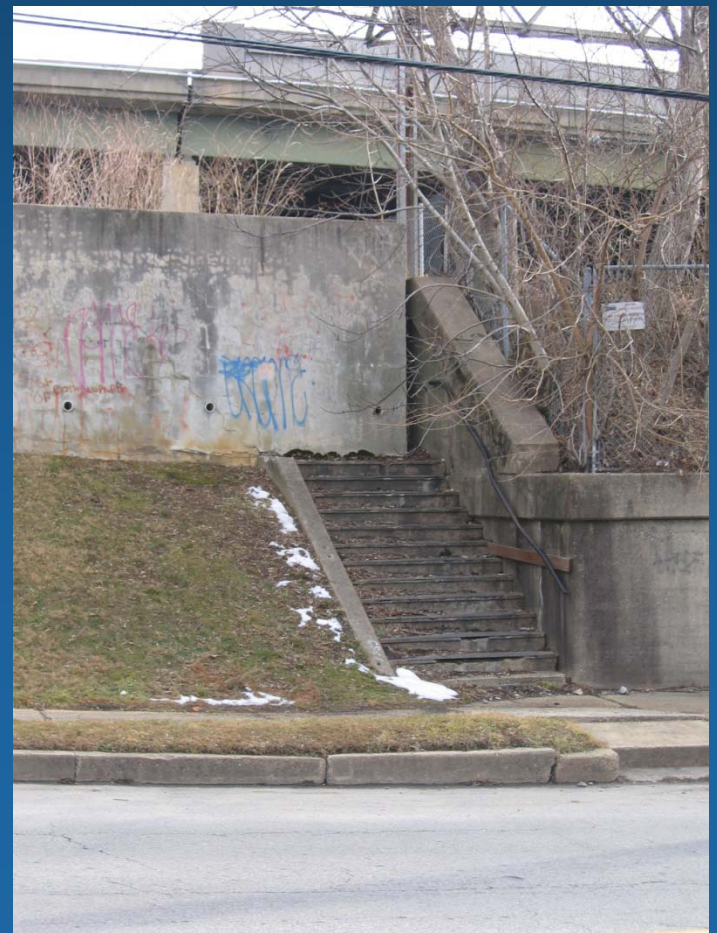
# IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CONSTRAINTS

- Opportunities
  - Proximity to downtown Newport
  - Good commuter rail service
  - Grade separation in place
  - Downtown grid
  - Precedent for great streetscape
  - Transit access
  - Opportunities for redevelopment



# IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CONSTRAINTS

- Constraints
  - No remaining station infrastructure
  - Station site is not publicly accessible
  - Potential Amtrak conflicts
  - Limited adjacent parking
  - Challenging pedestrian and bicycle access
  - Ridership may not be very high





# CIRCULATION, ACCESS, AND PARKING PLAN

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- Rail operations
  - Railroad coordination meetings
    - Amtrak
    - SEPTA
    - Norfolk Southern
  - What we've heard
    - High-level platform will be on the south side of the tracks
    - Tracks will need to be reconfigured to minimize conflicts between passenger and freight trains

# WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON NEXT

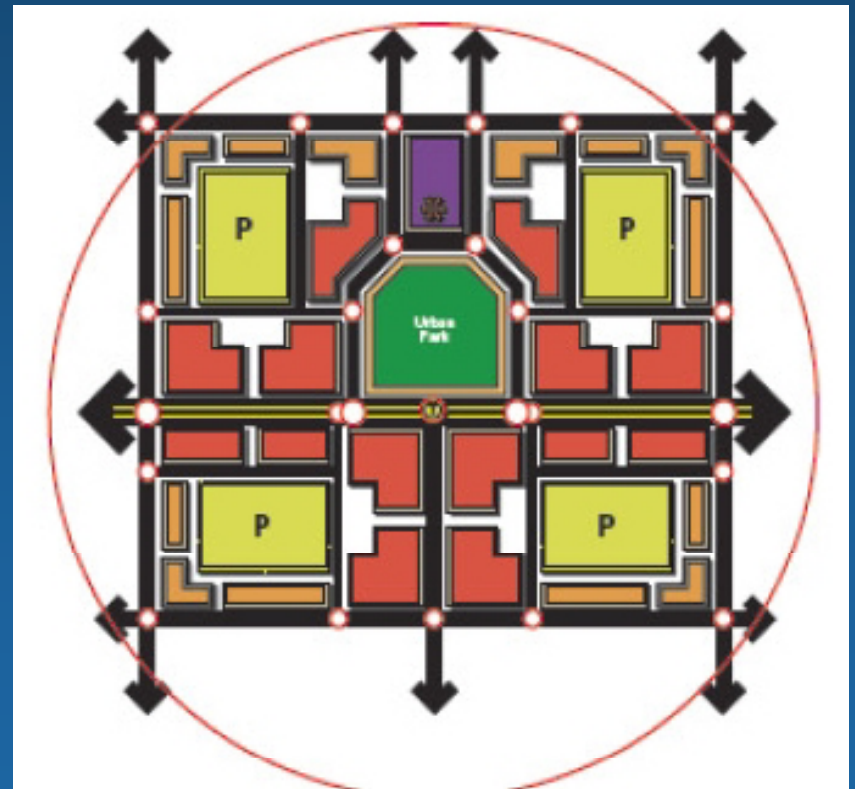
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- Ridership forecasts
- Station amenities
- Site layout, parking, and access
- Market reconnaissance/transit-oriented development (TOD) opportunities

# WHAT IS TOD?

“We believe that TOD is really about creating attractive, walkable, sustainable communities that allow residents to have housing and transportation choices and to live convenient, affordable, pleasant lives—with places for our kids to play and for our parents to grow old comfortably.”

*Center for Transit-Oriented Development*



# WHAT IS TOD?

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Higher-density mixed-use development within walking distance (about ½ mile) of transit stations. TOD...

- Increases “location efficiency” so people can walk, bike, and take transit
- Boosts transit ridership and minimizes traffic
- Provides a rich mix of housing, shopping and transportation choices
- Generates revenue for the public and private sectors and provides value for both new and existing residents
- Creates a sense of place

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON NEXT

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- We will continue to work with the Advisory Committee
- Look for another workshop in the early spring, where we'll present some options for your consideration
- The project will wrap up in late spring with a final public workshop and report



# HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

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1. Prioritize elements of the vision for downtown Newport and the station

# HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

## Which Projects Are Most Important To You?

Help us prioritize projects!

### Transit Projects

Develop short-term bus route changes to reduce bus congestion at Rodney Square



Develop a downtown transit center at the current site of the Midtown Parking Center at 9th and Shipley Streets



### Pedestrian/Bicycle/Streetscape Projects

Examine adjustments to the curve from 12th Street onto Delaware Avenue as part of improving streetscape, pedestrian and bicycle accommodations along 11th Street/12th Street/Delaware Avenue corridor



Improve streetscape, pedestrian and bicycle accommodations along King and Walnut Streets



Enhance the pedestrian experience under the Amtrak bridges



Designate Market Street as an on-street bike route with signs, pavement markings, and bike parking



# HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

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1. Prioritize elements of the vision for downtown Newport and the station
2. Mark opportunities, constraints, and other issues on the maps

# HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE



# HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

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1. Prioritize elements of the vision for downtown Newport and the station
2. Mark opportunities, constraints, and other issues on the maps
3. Let us know your comments and concerns



# QUESTIONS?

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Dave Gula

Wilmington Area Planning Council

850 Library Avenue, Suite 100

Newark, Delaware 19711

302.737.6205 x122

[dgula@wilmapco.org](mailto:dgula@wilmapco.org)

Jeff Riegner

Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP

Three Mill Road, Suite 309

Wilmington, Delaware 19806

302.571.9001

[jriegner@wrallp.com](mailto:jriegner@wrallp.com)