STATION SQUARE
STATION AREA PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STATION ACCESS

STATION DESIGN

PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
PLANNING AND EVALUATION DEPARTMENT
The Port Authority’s Planning and Evaluation Department has initiated a Station Improvement Program (SIP) that is focused on promoting Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), improving operations, and enhancing customer amenities at select fixed-guideway stations, with the ultimate goal of growing ridership and revenue for the agency. Ideally, new capital investment at transit stations will in turn leverage new development adjacent to Port Authority transit. Stations were prioritized for the SIP based on a detailed evaluation of factors contributing to TOD, with Station Square rated as one of the high priority locations. Relevant external and internal stakeholders were engaged to ensure that proposed initiatives reflect common goals and objectives.

GOALS OF THIS PLAN

TOD: Encourage development that integrates and expands transit use at Station Square.
- Collaborate with nearby property owners to ensure effective TOD.
- Provide safe connections to the TOD sites, with a focus on the Smithfield Street and Carson Street intersection.

Station Access: Make it easy for people to get there.
- Augment connections to the transit center from nearby recreational, commercial, and institutional destinations.
- Improve multimodal connections and amenities.
- Ensure safe crossings at both the LRT station and incline station.
- Improve access to the incline station along West Carson Street.

Station Design: Create a welcoming station.
- Create a versatile public space that welcomes people to the Monongahela Incline.
- Improve pedestrian safety and comfort in front of the light rail station along East Carson Street.
- Install a variety of signage to support design goals.
- Enhance the overall aesthetic and function of the stations.
- Include public art and sustainable elements.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Incline Station Design

The proposed improvements to the Monongahela Lower Incline Station include a new plaza area to the east of the building, enhanced streetscape design along West Carson, and improved amenities. During the planning process, an operational need was identified and this plan calls for further exploration of an access road adjacent to the incline station. Iconic signage is proposed for the corner of Smithfield and Carson Streets, providing a link between the two station areas.

Other proposed improvements include replacing the main entry door with a glass sliding door on the inside of the building. This would enable the main door to open for the full width of the doorway, making the experience of entering and exiting the station more comfortable while removing the existing obstruction of the sidewalk. Proposals also include exterior lighting enhancements and marquee signage.

LRT Station Design

The proposed improvements at the Station Square LRT and bus station include improved connections and safety enhancements, as well as upgrades to the station design. Importantly, widening of the sidewalk entrance to the transit station along East Carson will allow for safer and easier pedestrian access. Public art screening is proposed for the area to the east of the station, filling the void left by the elevated tracks.

Proposed enhancements to the station structure include a distinguishing facade material that lets in light, such as perforated metal. These textured panels should be utilized throughout the Station Square transit center area. It is also recommended that structural members be painted a light color to make the station feel lighter and more inviting. Other recommendations call for improved signage, seating and lighting. It is also recommended that the roof on the west entry tower be updated.
IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

Transit-oriented development is already occurring adjacent to the Station Square transit center and the Port Authority continues to advocate for and enable high-quality TOD. The agency has prepared for TOD by establishing TOD Design Guidelines, organizing and leading the necessary agencies and groups in order to educate and build relationships, informing the public, and by developing plans that are market-ready and well-integrated with necessary infrastructure improvements. Implementation strategies address issues such as funding, inter-agency cooperation, and policy recommendations.

1: COLLABORATE

This role encompasses proposed projects and strategies that the Port Authority can influence through strategic collaborations.

Projects include:
- Transit-oriented development in Station Square (east and west sides of Smithfield)
- Improved streetscapes (along East and West Carson Streets)
- Improved gateway (at the intersection of Smithfield Street and Carson Street)

2: DESIGN

This role reflects proposed projects and implementation strategies that are linked to property controlled by the Port Authority.

Projects include:
- Station improvements
- Improve pedestrian safety and comfort in front of the south side of Carson Street
- A new access road at the Monongahela Incline Lower Station site