



Department of City Development
News Release

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**DYNAMIC GATEWAY PROPOSED FOR MILWAUKEE
MAYOR, WISDOT UNVEIL NEW PLAN FOR OLD AMTRAK STATION**



Milwaukee's downtown Amtrak station is to become a dynamic transportation gateway and a catalyst for additional development under a \$15.2 million plan announced today by Mayor Tom Barrett and Wisconsin Transportation (WISDOT) Secretary Frank Busalacchi.

The City of Milwaukee worked in partnership with WISDOT to plan the transformation of the outdated Amtrak station, 433 W. St. Paul Avenue, into a landmark building that will house Amtrak's rail connection, Greyhound Bus service and a potential future connection of the Metra commuter service from Chicago. Visitors and commuters will enter and depart through a welcoming three-story glass atrium that will house ticketing kiosks, retail and food establishments, workspaces and user-friendly links to other transportation within Milwaukee. The signature glass façade and expansion was designed by Epstein Uhen Architects.

“At a time when ridership on the Amtrak Hiawatha service is up, gas prices are up and there’s a renewed interest in other modes of transportation, we worked with WISDOT to plan for a striking building that better serves the public and promotes economic growth in the region,” said Mayor Tom Barrett. “The new Intermodal Station is another opportunity to build the New Milwaukee.”

Barrett said by mid-2007, people would be welcomed to the state’s major urban center by a beautiful gateway station, adjacent to the signature 6th Street Bridge and across the Menomonee River from the New Harley-Davidson Museum.

“Through a great new design and enhanced links to our amenities and attractions, we will give commuters, residents and visitors a clear picture of the Milwaukee of the 21st Century.”

WISDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi said Milwaukee’s downtown Amtrak station will be renovated and expanded using a combination of federal, state and local funding sources.

“Governor Doyle’s Grow Wisconsin economic development plan recognizes the need to make investments in our transportation system and in our urban communities, especially in downtown Milwaukee,” said Busalacchi. “This new Milwaukee station will serve as a visual centerpiece for the area and is a demonstration of the Governor’s commitment to passenger rail service and to creating economic growth in the Milwaukee urban community.”

Milwaukee Ald. Bob Bauman, whose district includes the Amtrak Station, noted that the new design improves both the transportation aspects of the station and doubles the public space inside the facility.

“Several of us in the City of Milwaukee voiced our concerns about the previous design, we set to work with the state on a new design as partners, and we have come up with a product that will be a catalyst for this neighborhood and for the entire metro area,” Bauman said.

The renovation project will be financed in part through creation of a \$6 million tax incremental financing district that encompasses the downtown Amtrak station and adjacent, underutilized parking lots and warehouses. The tax-exempt station will convert to a mix of retail, office and commercial space, which will be developed and operated by Milwaukee Intermodal Partners, an affiliate of Wilton Partners of Los Angeles. The firm specializes in developing and managing commercial facilities in transportation hubs.

Mayor Barrett and Secretary Busalacchi noted that the Amtrak station will now become a true transportation gateway. As part of the Marquette Interchange Project, the state will improve 5th Street as it passes under I-794, enhancing the pedestrian connections to the Midwest Airlines Convention Center. The entire Amtrak station project is expected to attract additional businesses and housing to what is now an isolated section of downtown.

U.S. Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wisconsin) and Congresswoman Gwendolyn Moore (D-Milwaukee) advocated for the rebuilding of the downtown transportation gateway, securing \$5 million in federal funds for the project.

Construction of the project is expected to begin in April 2006.

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