Keystone Corridor: Lessons Learned
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Rick Robyak, P.E.
Vice President, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
The Keystone Corridor

- 105 Mile Corridor
- 12 Stations
- 1.3 M Passengers in FY12
- Intercity and Commuter Rail
- State and Amtrak Partnership
• PennDOT Dep. Secretary for Local and Area Transportation – Toby Fauver, AICP

• AMTRAK – Marilyn Jamison

• SEPTA – Jeff Knueppel, P.E.

• FTA – Brigid Hynes-Cherin
PennDOT Goals

• Improve the passenger experience
  – Decrease travel time
  – Create modern, attractive, and safe stations
  – Encourage ridership growth
  – Build a strong transit culture
  – Maximize Commonwealth investment by planning the entire station “area”
Harrisburg Transportation Center

Issues / Lessons Learned

- Consider local viability – HBG is distressed
- Get involved with developers early – before their plans have been made
- Small efforts can help smooth the environmental/historical process
- Think regional intermodal
Middletown
Middletown Station

Issues / Lessons Learned

• Developers almost always have hidden agendas
• Stream-line ROW acquisition
• Railroad coordination – AMTRAK, NS, local Short-line
Elizabethtown Station

BEFORE

AFTER
Elizabethtown Station

BEFORE

AFTER
Elizabethtown Station

**Issues / Lessons Learned**

- Local champion (E-Town Boro) critical
- ARRA Stimulus by passed link to town center – now in progress.
- Fully engage Section 106 process with lead Federal Agency - FTA
Mt. Joy Station

**Issues / Lessons Learned**

- Right-size the project – original plan was for a parking garage
- Integrated train station into downtown
- Ongoing stakeholder coordination (churches)
- Amtrak requirements – ADA and platform length
Lancaster
Lancaster Station

Issues / Lessons Learned

• Fully scope the project – remember passengers

• Lead agency capabilities (e.g., CM)

• Resolve Design issues
  – Bus movements
  – Fire suppression system

• Managing Press
Parkesburg
Parkesburg Station
Parkesburg Station

**Issues / Lessons Learned**

- Divided local community
- Effectively manage community expectations
Coatesville Station
**Issues / Lessons Learned**

- Local commitment to redevelopment
- Provide resources to initiate redevelopment
- Overcome community perceptions
- Make tough decisions
Issues / Lessons Learned

• Manage expectations – stations take time
• Developer and local reputation
Exton
Exton Station

Issues / Lessons Learned

- Construction funding unavailable at this time
- Project not fully scoped
  - Need more parking
  - Bus connections
**Issues / Lessons Learned**

- No clear champion with adequate funding
- Too big – phased approach is needed
Ardmore Transportation Center

Issues / Lessons Learned

• Transportation needs vs. Developer desires

• Right-size the project – allow for future phases
30th Street Station
30th Street Station

**Issues / Lessons Learned**

- Negotiating environmental clearance
- Station owner willingness to construct
Welcome to Plan the Keystone

Plan the Keystone is a study to identify infrastructure investments for the Keystone stations and their surrounding areas with the goal of enhancing the transit service and strengthening the communities served by the Keystone Line. This effort is being done in close collaboration with municipalities along the Keystone Line.

Plan with us! PennDOT would like your help in crafting the future of the Keystone Stations. This is where you can get involved with your neighbors and help to Plan the Keystone.

- Share your thoughts and read what others are saying.
- Visit the station areas and upload your own photos through Flickr.
- If you want a more “hands-on” experience, check out our calendar for upcoming interactive public events where you can plan with the design team and other community members.

NEWS

06.08.12 - Amtrak strategy (Central Penn Business)
05.30.12 - RTA officially opens Queen Street Station garage
05.04.12 - Parking plan chugs ahead for Elizabethtown train station (Lancaster Online)
03.08.12 - Officials tout Keystone rail upgrades (Central Penn Business Journal)
Thank you!

Questions?