

DTA awards Build/Design Contract for Multimodal Center

By Jim Heilig
Director of Administration

The DTA Board of Directors awarded the design/build contract for the Multimodal facility at its March 27 meeting to the team of Mortenson Construction and design architects LHB Corporation.

Up until now we have been doing preliminary designs to make sure we can do what we want within the space we have to work with. We've been digging in the dirt to check for any environmental issues; changing ordinances to expand our behavior process; finding the funds for the project; building partnerships and producing stacks of paper to document the whole process.

Now we are set to start the design/build process. Unlike typical construction projects where all the design gets completed before the construction starts, design/build starts with design, but begins construction before the design phase is completed. Preliminary designs will get to the point where the builder will say we can build it this way for 27.3 million. The tear down of the Wells Fargo ramp and the Salter Building will begin in June 2014. While that is happening, the final design will be worked on. By the fall the design will be completed and construction will start. The completion of the Multimodal Center should occur late in 2015 with final details wrapped up by December of 2015. The Northwest Passage will be reconstructed in 2015.

The Multimodal Center will include restroom facilities for drivers and a small meeting room. Our staffed information booth will be relocated from Transit Center East (TCE) to the new facility. TCE will become the gateway to the new facility with a new skywalk across Michigan Street to the Center. The skywalk crossing 3rd Avenue West to the west will also be rebuilt.

There will be a space on the boarding dock for at least 8 buses, plus a dedicated location for layovers. Security cameras will be installed throughout the facility with several observation stations. Security at the facility will be provided by a staffed police desk and offices for 15 people.

Real-time signs will be installed at several sites within the facility, along with informational monitors. The Center will include heated passenger waiting areas with seating and public restrooms. Buses will be staged under a roof or canopy to keep passengers out of the weather. Public parking will be increased with incentive parking for van and car pools. Electric charging stations will also be installed. LED lighting will be used to create a warm inviting, attractive and cost efficient facility.

The Multimodal Center will allow for safe and secure transfers between DTA routes as well as the other transportation providers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

On-street operational improvements, however, will be needed to increase safety, security and improve the effectiveness of the current and future transportation demand.

The Center will also provide ticketing and space for inter-city buses including Jefferson Lines as well as local inter-city providers LCS (private) and Arrowhead Transit (public). The facility will provide pedestrian and bicycle connections via replaced skywalks and concourses to the downtown area, DECC and the Western Waterfront Trail. The facility will replace existing parking and expand long-term parking, as well as secure bicycle parking and amenities.

A new Wells Fargo ATM will be built on the skywalk level, with dedicated banking for bank customers.

The total cost of the Multimodal project is \$28.9 million with funding coming from a federal grant (\$16 million), state bonds (\$6 million), private owner (\$1.4 million), and DTA funds.

The DTA will have a perpetual easement for the Multimodal Center and the facility property ownership will be retained by the current private entity. Some additional parking will be created with revenues directed by DTA into the operation and maintenance of the facility.

This has surely been a long process but now we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.



General Manager Jensen announces the awarding of the design/build contract at a news conference at City Hall on April 1.



Project Description

- **Multimodal Transportation Center**
 - New DTA Passenger Terminal
 - 9 Bus Loading Platforms (4 on Michigan and 5 inside Building, Plus 3 Layover)
 - DTA Staff Information Center
 - DTA Driver Facilities
 - 410 Parking Spaces
 - Capacity for 120 Bikes
 - ATM Drive Thru Bank (on Second level)
 - New Police Sub-Station
- **TCE Renovation**
 - Conversion of existing Police Sub-Station to new Superior Street Skywalk Connection
 - Renovation and Enhancement of Current Retail Space
 - Removal of Existing Canopy and Installation of New Way Finding Signage on Superior
- **Skywalks**
 - Renovated NW Passage
 - Renovated Harbor Center Skywalk
 - Limited Renovation to Existing Wells Fargo Skywalk
 - New TCE Skywalk to Multimodal Center
- **Traffic and Circulation Improvements**
 - Conversion to 2-Way Traffic on 3rd Ave West
 - Conversion to 2-Way Traffic on 2nd Ave West
 - New Traffic Signal at 3rd Ave West and Michigan Street
 - Michigan Street Reconstruction