

## Overall Project

### **Q. What is the Ypsilanti Transit Center Project?**

A. The Ypsilanti Transit Center, also known as the YTC, provides transit services to members of the Ypsilanti and surrounding areas. This project includes planning, development, and construction of a new transit center in Ypsilanti for the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (TheRide), as part of TheRide's long-range plan. Steps are underway to engage the public, design and plan the new center, address funding and meet requirements at the state and federal levels.

### **Q. Why is a new transit center needed?**

A. The current Ypsilanti Transit Center was built in 1993. At the time, it met the needs of our ridership levels and staff. Today, however, with the increased number of riders, buses and staff, the existing facility and site no longer offers adequate space. A new facility aligns with our long-range plan and accommodates growth while providing staff and riders with a more comfortable, safe and efficient transit experience.

### **Q. Is TheRide building a brand new transit center in Ypsilanti?**

A. Yes. At over 30 years old and with limited expansion opportunities for more buses, a fully new facility in Ypsilanti is needed to address the growing population and services across Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor.

### **Q. What is the timeline for the new center?**

A. In 2024, we intend to complete Phase II of the project, which includes required environmental documentation work and concept development. Following this work, the following timeline is anticipated (this represents an ideal timeline for the project and is subject to change):

2025-2026 – Complete Phase III

- Design Development
- Land Acquisition

2026-2027 – Complete Phase IV and V

- Final Design
- Construction Bidding
- Construction

2027 – Open New Facility

### **Q. I remember this from a while ago. Have you already done this work?**

A. The project launched in 2017-2018 and included a Needs Assessment. However, the project experienced a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, there was a significant gap between the data collected in 2018 and the current expectations of stakeholders in 2023-2024. To bridge this gap, engagement kicked off in the fall of 2023 to collect stakeholder feedback and restart the project.

## Project Cost

### **Q. How much will the new site cost to build?**

A. The FY 2024 estimated cost for planning, design, land acquisition, and construction of the project is approximately \$23 million. This budget estimate was developed from the 2018 conceptual plans and present-day development costs; the project team will revise this budget as the current planning and design phase continues.

### **Q. How is the new center being funded?**

A. AAATA will use a mix of funding for this project, including capital reserves and grant funding. To date, TheRide received \$300,000 in federal funds for the planning stages of the project, secured by U.S. Senator Gary Peters, as well as \$7 million in federal funds for the construction of the building, secured by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. TheRide is seeking additional competitive grants to support the project while also continuing conversations around land acquisition to support the expansion of the YTC.

### **Q. Will fares go up because of the new center?**

A. Passenger fare rates are not tied to the funding plan for this new facility. No fare changes will occur because of the new center and no fare changes are currently planned.

## Location

### **Q. Will this new terminal require the removal of any existing buildings?**

A. TheRide recognizes the importance of preserving significant structures in the project area and is making efforts to avoid removals. TheRide has been coordinating with the City of Ypsilanti and its Historic District Commission to understand the historic impacts of the project and take the steps needed to meet guidelines and requirements.

### **Q. Will the new YTC be built at the same location?**

A. While no final determination has been made as to the location of the new YTC, the existing site is the recommended location from prior planning efforts and public feedback. Current engagement efforts will further inform this decision. We are currently accepting the public's feedback through May 22 to help determine what is best for the community while also logistically feasible.

### **Q. What is the expected size of the new YTC?**

A. Early concepts are being presented to the public in the spring of 2024 to help determine site layout and accommodate capacity requirements. Early concepts include capacity for 10-11 bus bays with at least one that can accommodate a longer bus than we operate today and approximately 6,500 square feet of building (about 3x the size of the existing YTC). A final determination will be made by the fall 2024, following public, staff and stakeholder feedback. We also need to work closely with the Federal Transit Administration as we make our decisions on the final site selection and preferred site concept since we will use federal funding to build the new center.

## Site and Facility Features

### **Q. Will accessibility features be added into the new facility?**

A. Yes. While designs have not been started yet to confirm project details, TheRide is committed to accessibility for our staff and riders.

### **Q. I've been to other Transit Centers and noticed that they have different amenities and features. Will the new YTC have the same things?**

A. We're doing extensive stakeholder engagement to determine what works and what doesn't work at other transit centers, including the Blake Transit Center. We encourage anyone interested to share their feedback through our virtual open house and survey taking place in April and May.

### **Q. Will the new Transit Center accommodate other modes of transportation, like rideshare services, taxis or FlexRide (a demand-response transportation service)?**

A. Space for growth in this area is being considered as we look toward the future of transportation in Ypsilanti and the needs of our community.

### **Q. Will the new Transit Center accommodate biking?**

A. Biking and accommodation for bikes will be included to support the needs of our riders. The Needs Assessment developed in 2018 highlighted a need for bike racks and TheRide 2045 prioritizes this need.

## Communication

### **Q. How can I learn more and provide my feedback?**

TheRide is accepting feedback April 22 – May 22, 2024. To learn more, visit:

[theride.org/about/projects/ypsilanti-transit-center](https://theride.org/about/projects/ypsilanti-transit-center).

There are multiple ways to provide feedback:

- Visit the virtual open house to review information and complete a survey: [TheRideYTC.org](https://TheRideYTC.org)
- Attend a public meeting:
  - Thursday, April 25, 2:00pm – 6:00pm at the Ypsilanti Transit Center
    - 220 Pearl Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
  - Thursday, May 16, 6:30-9:00 p.m. at TheRide Board Meeting, location TBD
- Call: 734-794-1882
- Email: [YTCinfo@theride.org](mailto:YTCinfo@theride.org)
- Write:
  - Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority  
ATTN: YTC Feedback
  - 2700 S. Industrial Highway  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104