



In all the world there is only one Essex Junction

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: David A. Crawford, Village Manager
Jonathan L. Williams, Management Assistant
DATE: June 28, 2011
SUBJECT: AMTRAK STATION PROJECTS SUMMARY

This memo has been to summarize the various projects at the Essex Junction Amtrak Station.

1. **Amtrak will bring the station/platform up to a “state of good repair.”** Construction would begin sometime between fall 2011 and spring 2012. The end of construction would not likely be until late spring or summer 2012. This project’s purpose is to correct ADA, maintenance & safety issues. It is limited in scope.

Amtrak has been surveying the station and gathering field information this month. Subsequently they will be sending a “Scope of Work” document to the Village of Essex Junction for comments.

Amtrak will be painting the station using graffiti resistant paint in the “state of good repair” refurbishments. The Village will have input on the color of the paint used by Amtrak to paint the station. NECR has stated that they will not approve a volunteer painting project since the painting refurbishment is part of the Amtrak project.

2. **Building a new pitched station roof is not part of Amtrak’s refurbishment project.** Amtrak Policy and Development has been consulted on this issue, and it is not possible to allocate Amtrak funds for an outside entities project and as this program is primarily an ADA compliance program with some SOGR work, Amtrak can’t authorize any major enhancements. However, as discussed on the call, Amtrak doesn’t mind coordinating their work with any future work the Village may do, and could even adjust some portions to accommodate the Village’s work as long as it doesn’t compromise the building. The Village and Amtrak will discuss this item further as the design progresses.
3. **VTrans, Amtrak, and NECR are discussing expansion of the visiting room area at the station.** Amtrak’s Policy and Development Department is aware that VTrans desires to have more available space in the waiting area at the Essex Junction Train Station. They have stated that due to significant increased ridership at this station over the last couple of years, often times there is not enough space to accommodate all the passengers waiting at the station within the waiting room. VTrans has made it known to the NECR that if possible they would like to see an expansion of the waiting area.

Charles Hunter did speak on the conference call on some possibilities involving current space and tenants that could possibly enhance waiting room space. He has met with the Dispatch Center Director regarding Rail America’s (ARDC) space needs. They are willing to look into vacating some space that they currently have set up for the ARDC back up dispatching center. They are looking at moving the south waiting room wall further south, putting it on the south end of the roll-up door. There are a couple of ideas being

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discussed; one is to knock down the current wall and build a new one, or two to cut a doorway into the existing wall and build the new one. Either way, the wall will need to be included in Amtrak's work plans for finish/painting with the rest of the interior. This requires redesign of the dispatching work stations and relocation of some equipment and communications/power access. The roll-up door on the east (track) side can either be walled in or windows installed to provide a view and some sunlight.

Also, another thought to gain more space would be to glass in the roof overhang from the bay window north to the end of the building. This would create some good space for passengers waiting to board the train. One envision is it could be similar to the Raleigh, NC depot and what was done there (see photo). If this option is to be considered with VTrans, it would affect Amtrak's platform work plans.



4. **The security camera project is separate from the Amtrak project** and is funded by Rail America/NECR & CCTA. It is currently moving forward, and Rail America/New England Central Railroad has placed the security camera systems on order and the cameras are being installed. Completion is expected sometime within the next week or so. The work will be done by Toner's Satellite & Audio/Video Electronics and is for six weatherproof/vandal proof security camera systems to be placed on and around the bus/train station (all four sides of the station will be covered) to monitor for criminal/vandal activity. The Essex Police will have access to the recorded surveillance footage when necessary.

A **seventh camera**, not part of the Rail America security system purchase, is being placed on a Green Mountain Power pole across Railroad Avenue, **facing the CCTA bus side of the station**. The CCTA is **funding the purchase of this seventh camera** which will be loaned to NECR/RA and become part of their system. CCTA will have the ability to remotely access/view the images being recorded.

RELATED INFORMATION

VTrans Secretary Brian Searles is aware of these proposed projects and has expressed support in exploring all of them.

The Village Staff is working with the Essex Police Department to schedule a neighborhood meeting. At this meeting we will brief the Central Street citizens on the above projects and the PD's involvement in this area.