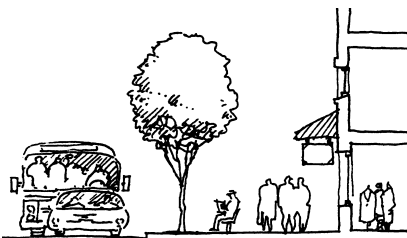


HOW DO WE EVALUATE STATION SITES?

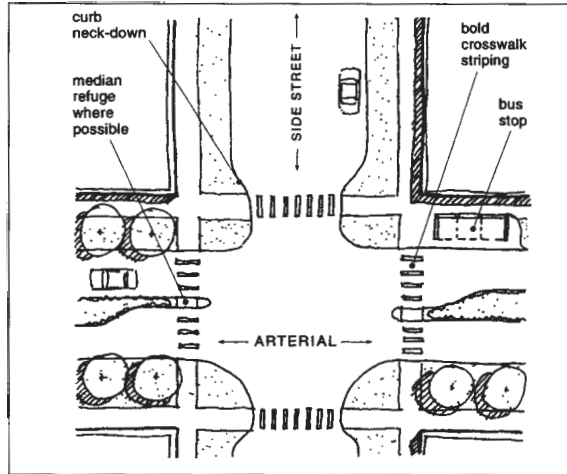
Environmental Screening of Station Sites

In preparation for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the alternative station sites have been screened to identify the major opportunities and constraints. The screening or initial evaluation process includes technical analysis and research, targeted to reveal specific issues and conditions that may be present. The results have been summarized in five categories:

- ✓ **Environmental Impact Potential:** displacement of homes and businesses; increased noise; disruption of community cohesion; the potential for neighborhood revitalization; environmental justice and equity issues; visual effects; potential impacts on historic, cultural and natural resources; the presence of hazardous materials.
- ✓ **Plan Compatibility:** the compatibility of a regional rail station with adopted policies or plans, and existing land use.
- ✓ **Accessibility:** the number of residents within a 1/2 mile of the station is an important indicator of potential transit use. Visibility, bicycle access, proximity to shopping and services and barriers to transit access, such as a highway or freight tracks are also examined.
- ✓ **Design Issues:** the feasibility of construction, consistency between the site design and required codes and ordinances, (for example buffers or set-backs that render the site infeasible).
- ✓ **Traffic Flow Issues:** the adequacy, safety and dependability of vehicular access as well as on-site circulation.



Other Things to Consider Location Criteria



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Market Area Access: Do the surrounding roadways provide good connections for cars and buses service?

Site Access: Can access be designed to avoid undue delays on public streets and within the station site? Can cars and buses readily access the site? Can safe and convenient pedestrian, wheelchair and bicycle access be

developed? Can the site provide secondary vehicular and pedestrian access when the primary route is blocked?

Site Visibility: Is the site easy to find and clearly visible?

Land Use Policies & Compatibility: Is the station location compatible with adopted land use policies or plans? Are existing land uses supportive of the station function? What about planned or potential market driven changes in land use patterns?

Typical Functional Criteria

Slopes and curves: Are the tracks at the station site sloped or curved?

Platform space: Can the site accommodate the platform with adequate distance from crossing streets to support train and traffic signal controls?

Circulation: Can cars and buses be arranged on-site to minimize disruptions in a safe, efficient and convenient manner? Can pedestrians, wheelchairs and bicycles move without conflicts?

Constructability: Does the site lend itself to cost-effective construction of the station? Will construction be disruptive to adjoining land uses?

Potential Environmental Impacts: Are there natural systems, institutional, cultural or historic resources that may constrain use the site? What about other valued existing or approved land uses. Are there undesirable business or residential relocations? Are there mitigation issues?



Now it's your turn...

The pages that follow include a location map for each station, showing the potential sites and a summary of the results of the initial evaluation.

There may be other issues that you believe are significant relative to the alternative sites for each station. Please share your point of view, we value your input. Fill out comment cards and help us track the issues most important to you.