



## **Downtown Station Study Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

The *Downtown Station Study* is being conducted by Mountain Metropolitan Transit (MMT) to examine options for a new multimodal transit site in Colorado Springs. The goal of this effort is to create a community asset that improves transit operations, safety, accessibility, and rider experience while supporting downtown revitalization for the near and long term.

### ***Where will the new station be located?***

This study will identify three recommended locations within the boundaries of I-25 to the West, Wahsatch Avenue to the East, Boulder Street to the North and Las Animas Street to the South.

### ***What is a “multimodal” transit station?***

A multimodal or intermodal transit station provides access for various modes of travel such as biking, walking, driving, or riding public transit. Similarly, a multimodal station helps travelers easily connect and transition from one mode of travel to another. This is especially important as more people are using multiple modes of travel to reach their final destination.

### ***What is the study schedule?***

This site location study has three basic phases that will occur in 2016:

- ***Spring:*** Study kickoff, data collection, community outreach/focus groups
- ***Early-Summer:*** Level 1 Screening provides a pass/fail determination of whether or not potential sites meet basic functional, land use and implementation requirements.
- ***Late Summer:*** Level 2 Screening produces a comparative analysis of the 5 sites which passed Level 1 Screening.
- ***Fall:*** Level 3 Screening undertakes detailed analysis of the 3 sites advanced from Level 2 Screening.

Once three (3) sites are recommended as potential locations for the new station, MMT will refine design, conduct additional technical analysis, and collaborate with City administration and City Council to identify a preferred site that leads to the construction of a new station to meet the needs of the community and to enhance system operations.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: DOWNTOWN STATION STUDY

## *The Next Generation of Colorado Springs Transit*

### ***How much will the new station cost? How much does this study cost?***

A budget for the new station will be identified based on the site selected during this study. For cost effective implementation, this study is not considering locations that would require extensive site preparation/acquisition costs, significant underground facilities or elevated structures. The budget for the downtown station study is approximately \$200,000.

### ***How will the new station be funded? Why not use the money to improve service?***

The majority of funding for the new station is expected to come through a grant from the Federal Transit Administration. This type of federal grant provides the opportunity to make a significant capital investment in our community with a small match (typically 20%) by our local government. This is a one-time expense to construct a safe, attractive and fully operational transit system to support community transit service for decades.

### ***How does this study fit in with other future plans for Colorado Springs?***

A top priority of this effort is to align with downtown redevelopment plans and leverage the long-term vision for the region. The study's evaluation criteria consider past and present planning efforts, as well as land use, zoning, policy and economic development potential.

### ***What will happen to the existing station?***

Until the new downtown transit station is built and operational, the existing station will continue to operate as it does today. MMT leases the existing station from the Colorado Springs Parking System Enterprise. Following the opening of the new downtown station, the current site will be transitioned back to the Parking System Enterprise for redevelopment.

### ***Why is now the right time to build a new transit station?***

There is an urgent need for a new transit station. The existing station is 40 years old, at capacity and has no room for expansion or Transit Oriented Development. Today, bus maneuvering is difficult and mixed vehicle and pedestrian traffic creates unsafe conditions. The current design also limits first responder access, multimodal connections, and results in a challenging boarding and unloading environment. Given the projected economic development and growth in downtown Colorado Springs, the new station will support the growing demands for multimodal transportation.

