

# Washington Street Transit Center Concept



*Conceptual Design of Eau Claire, WI Transit Center*

Mountain Rides would like to bring forth the idea of a mixed-use development on the Washington Street lot that would include a ground level transit center. The Washington Street lot is well located and right sized for a transit center due to several factors:

- Located within one block of two existing hotels and two blocks of two planned/proposed hotels.
- Proximity to all MRTA's currently operating fixed route bus routes. A transit center in this location would require few if any route adjustments.
- Future benefit of a central drop-off/pickup location to service any users of a satellite or park and ride lots designed to take away or move the parking burden from the downtown core.
- Proximity to Main Street traffic signal, limiting or eliminating traffic conflicts with buses.
- Current street design accommodates MRTA's current and future fleets.
- Existing pedestrian infrastructure and easy connectivity to all destinations within the downtown core from this location.
- Charging opportunities during bus layovers at Transit Center, helping MRTA become even more efficient.

A transit center would not only benefit Mountain Rides users, but all Ketchum residents and visitors. A well-functioning central location for all transit users eliminates the need for some residents to even own

a vehicle, allowing the city to make further allowances on the number of parking spaces required with new developments.

A transit center would benefit transit users by providing one central point for all MRTA system transfers, something that today requires a somewhat intimate knowledge of how the bus system works. A central transfer location allows one single point for any user with any destination to get to any location in the Mountain Rides system from Bellevue to Warm Springs and all points in-between. Looking into the not-so-distant future, a transit center could serve traditional bus users, on-demand (micro-mobility) transit users, bike share program users and travelers of all types.

A huge benefit of a transit center for the tourism industry and those employed in the industry would be that employees could simply tell guests and visitors “head to the bus center” rather than being burdened by needing an intricate understanding of which bus or route pick up when and where. A Mountain Rides customer service kiosk at the transit center would provide a one-stop answer to the famous “how do I get to...” that we all get from time-to-time.

Creative funding opportunities would be gained by a “public-private” partnership. The Federal Transit Administration has a program in which “Transit-Oriented-Development (TOD)” is eligible for funds to help put a beneficial project together. A similar project was completed several years ago in downtown Boise.

Mountain Rides would simply like the opportunity to be a small piece of a much larger project in this location. Due to the size of the space, there is even an opportunity to have some commercial space on the first floor, with the transit center operating behind said space. High density residential would be ideal on the floors above. With a transit center, very little parking would be required in a mixed-use development such as this.