

New Jersey Transit Update – Rebuilding Of Somerville Railway Station

On April 6th 2009 representatives of New Jersey TRANSIT presented to the Borough Council the details of the forthcoming reconstruction of the Somerville Railway Station. A copy of the full presentation is on this website.

This reconstruction was originally brought about by NJ TRANSIT's accessibility plan of 1992 to make this key station fully ADA compliant; it will be one of four on the Raritan Valley line, the other three being, Union, Cranford and Westfield.

Somerville station has been identified as one of 35 KEY stations system wide within NJ TRANSIT and as such has great significance to the Borough and its surroundings. Forming part of the northern boundary of the Landfill and Station Area redevelopment project NJ TRANSIT has been a partner with the Borough since the commencement of planning in 2005. These improvements will make this station a focal point for the redevelopment efforts and the center piece of a pedestrian oriented network of streets and sidewalks linking the landfill and station area to Main Street.

Major elements of the reconstruction are:

New Construction includes:

- 710 foot high-level side platforms with canopies
- ADA compliant elevator cabs w/ machine rooms
- Inbound waiting room ticket agent, public restrooms
- Outbound platform waiting room
- Platform shelters
- Platform ramps and stairs
- Electrical and communication rooms
- Accessible path of travel (sidewalk) to South Bridge Street
- Alteration to the inbound tunnel entrance

Rehabilitation work includes:

- Rehab the two existing freight elevator shafts
- Rehab the existing pedestrian tunnel (lighting and drainage improvements)
- Repair the exterior stairs which lead to South Bridge Street.

Additional improvements:

- New sidewalk from South Bridge Street to station plaza
- New landscaping and street lights along new path
- New sidewalk and plaza of blue stone stamped concrete design

NJ TRANSIT worked closely with the Borough for over 18 months in the design and look of this station, taking the input from the Borough Council, Planning Board and Architectural Review Board and incorporating many of the suggestions into the final plan.

Additionally, working with representatives of the Borough, NJ TRANSIT under its Arts in Transit program, had leading New Jersey artists design the guard rails and pedestrian tunnel art to reflect the Somerville area. The guard rails reflect the wildlife of the Raritan River and the pedestrian tunnel will have ceramic tiles showing life in Somerville.

On the parking area side of the station near the new tunnel entrance, a twelve foot high stainless steel sculpture representing rail and road travel in Somerville will be erected.

Schedule

- Advertised – December 2008
- Bids Received – February 2009
- Board Approval – March 2009
- Issue Notice to Proceed – April 2009
- 50% construction complete– January 2010
- 100% construction complete – December 2010
- Project closeout – February 2011

Construction cost

\$15.2M

Construction duration: 20 months

Should you have any questions or comments please e-mail Redev@somervillenj.org