

East Light Rail Transit Community Design Report

Prepared for the
Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments
Norine Kelly, Executive Director
by



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Introduction

In the coming months the people of Allegheny County will make transportation investment decisions that will impact the long range character and economy of their communities. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) will facilitate this decision making through the development of a long-range transit plan for Eastern Allegheny County. The communities of Eastern Allegheny County, through the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments (TCVCOG), have commissioned this *East Light Rail Transit Community Design Report* to inform their discussion of light rail transit and as their initial input to the SPC planning process.

The *East Light Rail Transit Community Design Report* illustrates potential town planning and transit-oriented design solutions and considerations for eastern Allegheny County identified by community residents. Between April 10 and April 14, 2000, the Otak transit planning and urban design team conducted thorough design discussions with corridor stakeholders. The dialogue resulted in a better understanding of the functional and aesthetic relationships between enhanced transit service and the communities. This report documents what the design team learned from residents and stakeholders and is intended to serve as a vehicle for transportation, land use and urban

design comment as the region commences long-range transit planning.

The designs, illustrations, and descriptions contained in this report are conceptual and schematic in nature. They are intended to illustrate what is achievable and to continue a design dialogue in each community. Actual development at station areas will be determined by the owners of property adjacent to station sites, the communities responsible for the regulation of land use, and the agencies responsible for managing the transportation system.

A community exploration of the relationship between land use and mass transit helps decision makers understand and refine transit investment decisions. Station location, programming, aesthetics, amenities, and relationships with surrounding land uses are important considerations for world-class mass transit. The information developed in this *East Light Rail Transit Community Design Report* will be used to optimize transit to preserve and enhance the livability of the communities of Eastern Allegheny County.

