



PALMER STATION

PLANNING + DESIGN

Public Meeting #2

October 7, 2025

Agenda

1. Introduction & Project Updates
2. Regional Context
3. Conceptual Design
4. Next Steps

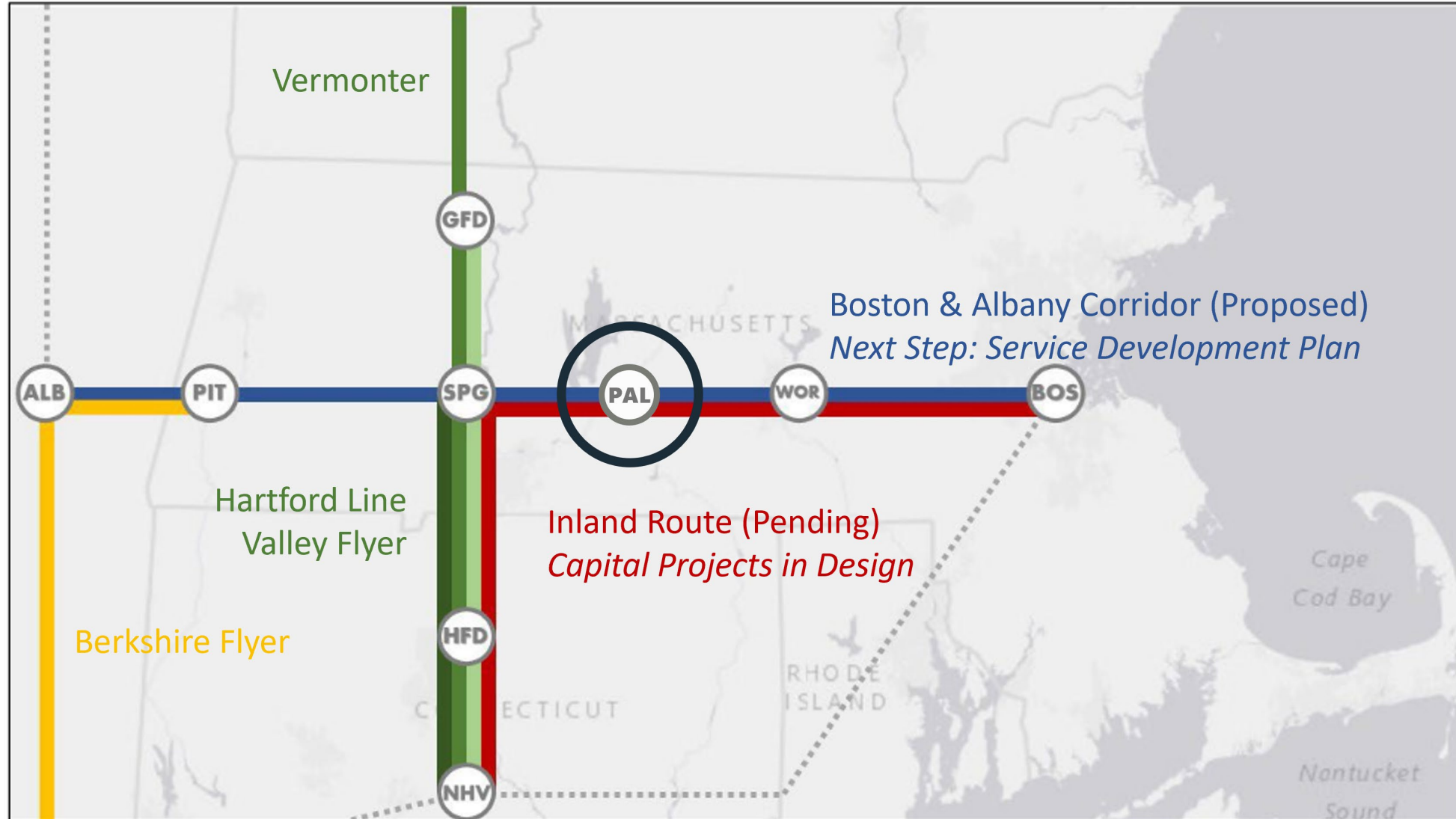




Introduction & Project Updates

Compass Rail

Compass Rail, Passenger Rail for the Commonwealth, is Massachusetts' vision for Amtrak-operated intercity passenger rail.



Palmer Station Planning & Design

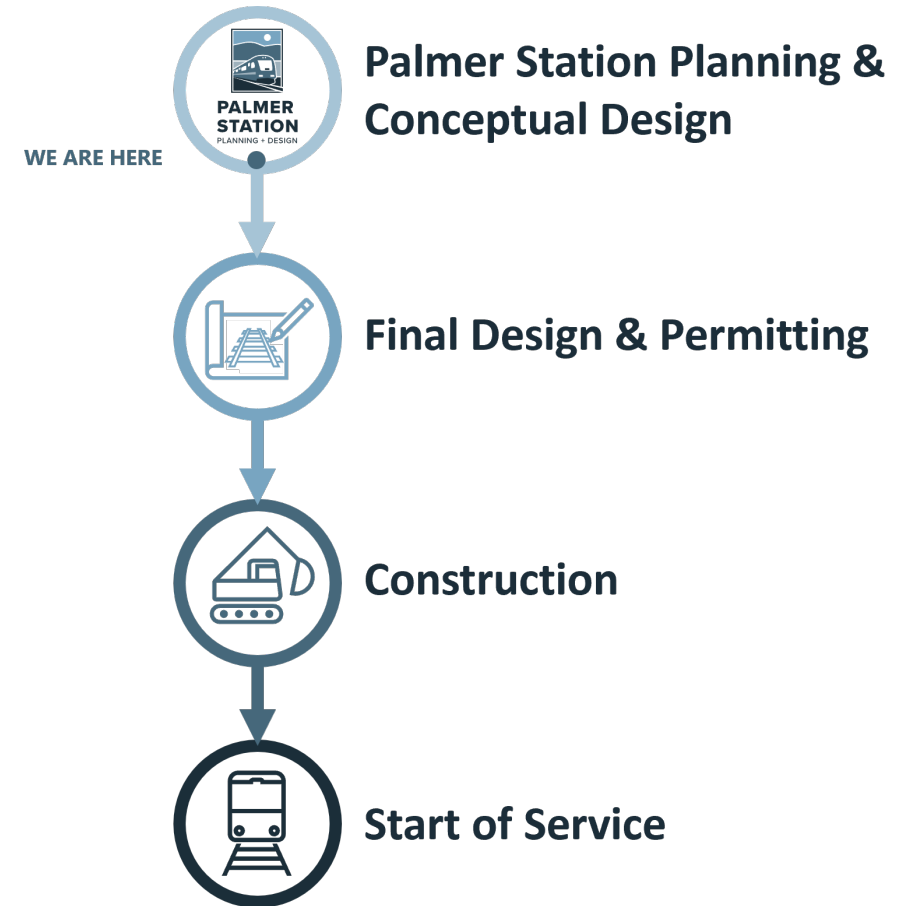
Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to identify a new passenger rail station along the proposed Compass Rail Corridor serving the Town of Palmer and surrounding communities that will enhance mobility and connectivity, support local planning goals, and drive economic development.

Palmer Station Planning & Design

Project Phase

- Objective: Identify a feasible station site
- Next steps required to advance station:
 - Public and state evaluation of concept, cost, and schedule
 - Engage with property owners
 - Identify design and construction funding



Palmer Station Planning & Design

Steering Committee

- Provide guiding input throughout the project
- Have held 6 meetings to date, with input focused on:
 - Project Purpose
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Alternatives Analysis
 - Site Selection
 - Market Analysis
 - Conceptual Design

Name	Affiliation
Brad Brothers	Town of Palmer, Town Manager
Heidi Mannarino	Town of Palmer, Town Planner
Michael Marciniiec	Town of Palmer, Planning Board Chairman
John Latour	Town of Palmer, Community Development Director
Karl Williams	Town of Palmer, Town Councilor (District 3)
Dave Golden	Town of Palmer, Master Plan Implementation Committee
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Director of Transportation Planning
Ben Hood	Palmer Redevelopment Authority

Status Update

Since December 2024 Public Meeting, we have:

1. Completed alternatives analysis and selected a site to advance to conceptual design.
2. Considered regional context through transportation planning and market analysis.
3. Advanced conceptual design.

Today, we will share transportation/market considerations and conceptual design.



Regional Context

Transportation Planning

Existing Conditions

- Station site served by S. Main Street
- Study area includes nearby unsignalized intersections and intersections in Depot Village
- Reviewed street conditions between the Station site and Depot Village



Transportation Planning

Traffic Impact Analysis Findings

- Low daily and low peak period vehicle trip generation is expected
- Station site-generated traffic **does not** impact operations in any significant way
- Unsignalized intersections near the Station site do not warrant the installation of a traffic signal
- Potential opportunities for connectivity with PVRTA

Daily Passenger Activity =

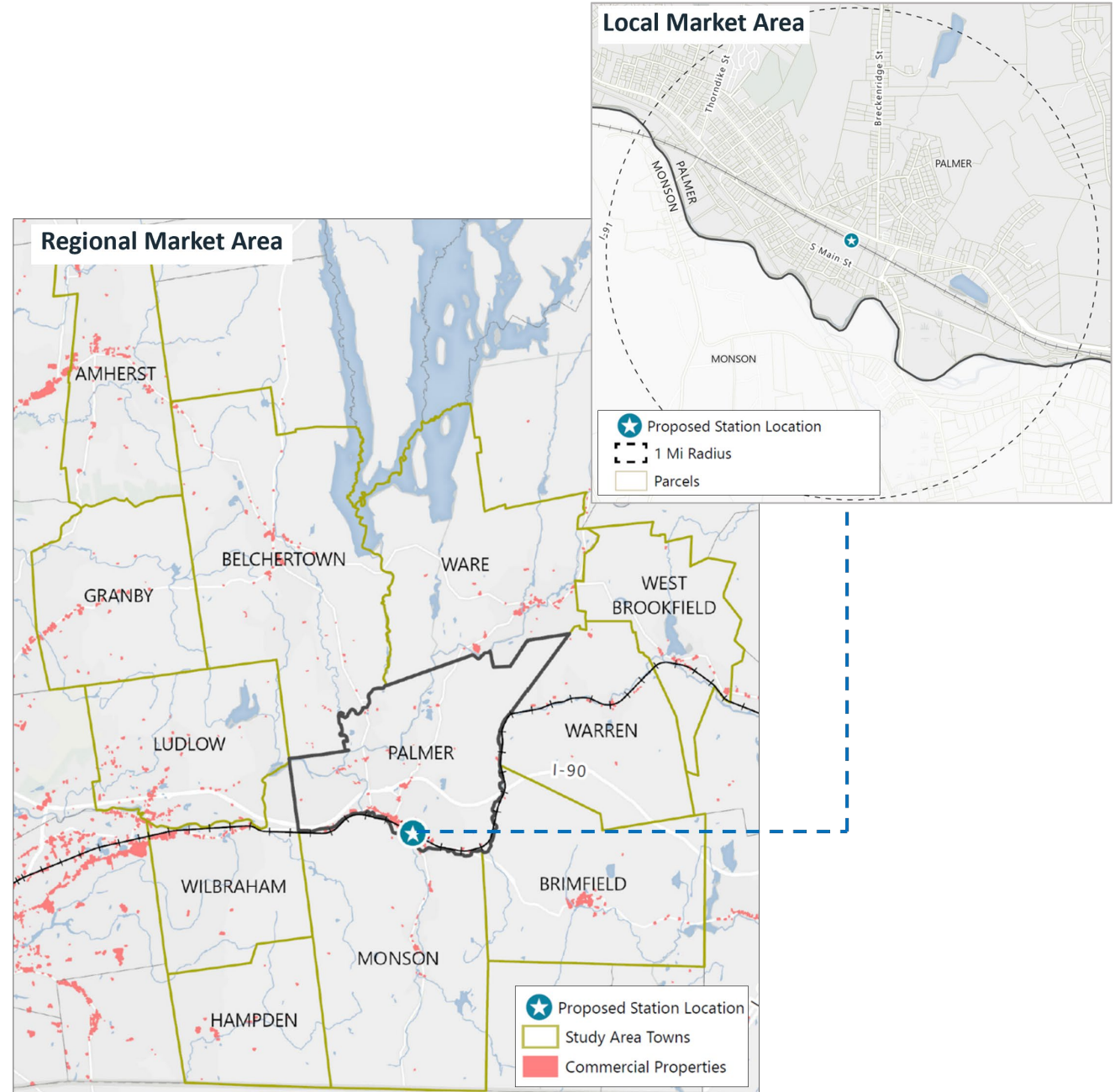
28 Boardings (Ons) | 28 Alightings (Offs)

Vehicle Trips	To Site	From Site
Daily	31	31
AM Peak	18	13
PM Peak	13	18

Market Analysis

Approach and Findings

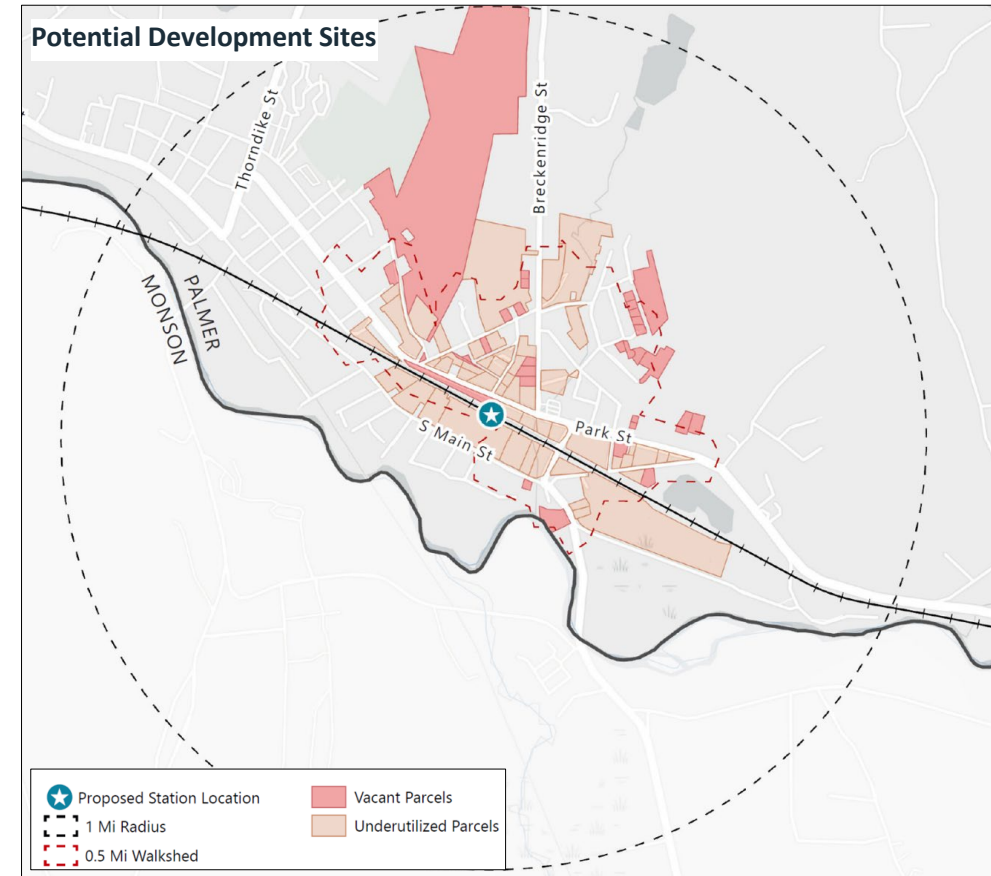
- **Approach** included a combined review of:
 - Local/regional market areas
 - Baseline conditions
 - Stakeholder roundtables
- **Roundtable** participants highlighted proposed station as a catalyst for growth/mobility



Market Analysis

Approach and Findings

- A station could:
 - Unlock ridership demand
 - Improve job access
 - Attract employers
- Effort seeks to identify policies to support positive economic development





Conceptual Design

Conceptual Design

Station Program



Track and Signal

Defined by Amtrak and CSX standards.



Station

Based on Amtrak guidelines (Category 4, projected ridership < 20,000/year), incorporating input on design elements.



Site/Civil

Based on Amtrak guidelines, incorporating input on site configuration.

Incorporating Design Input

Feedback from Public Meeting and Stakeholder Committee

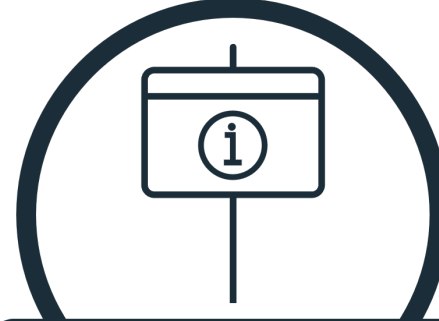
Design Goals:



1. Enhance User Experience



2. Sustainability and Durability



3. Provide Local Information



4. Highlight Town History



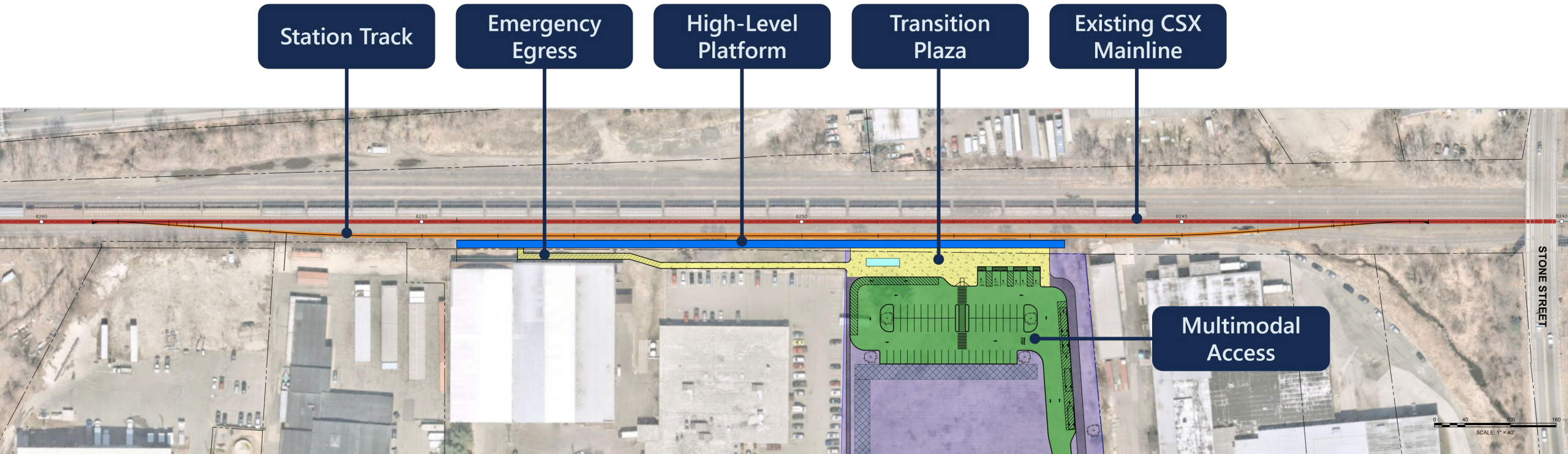
5. Preserve Developable Space



6. Maintain View and Sightlines

Conceptual Design

Site Plan

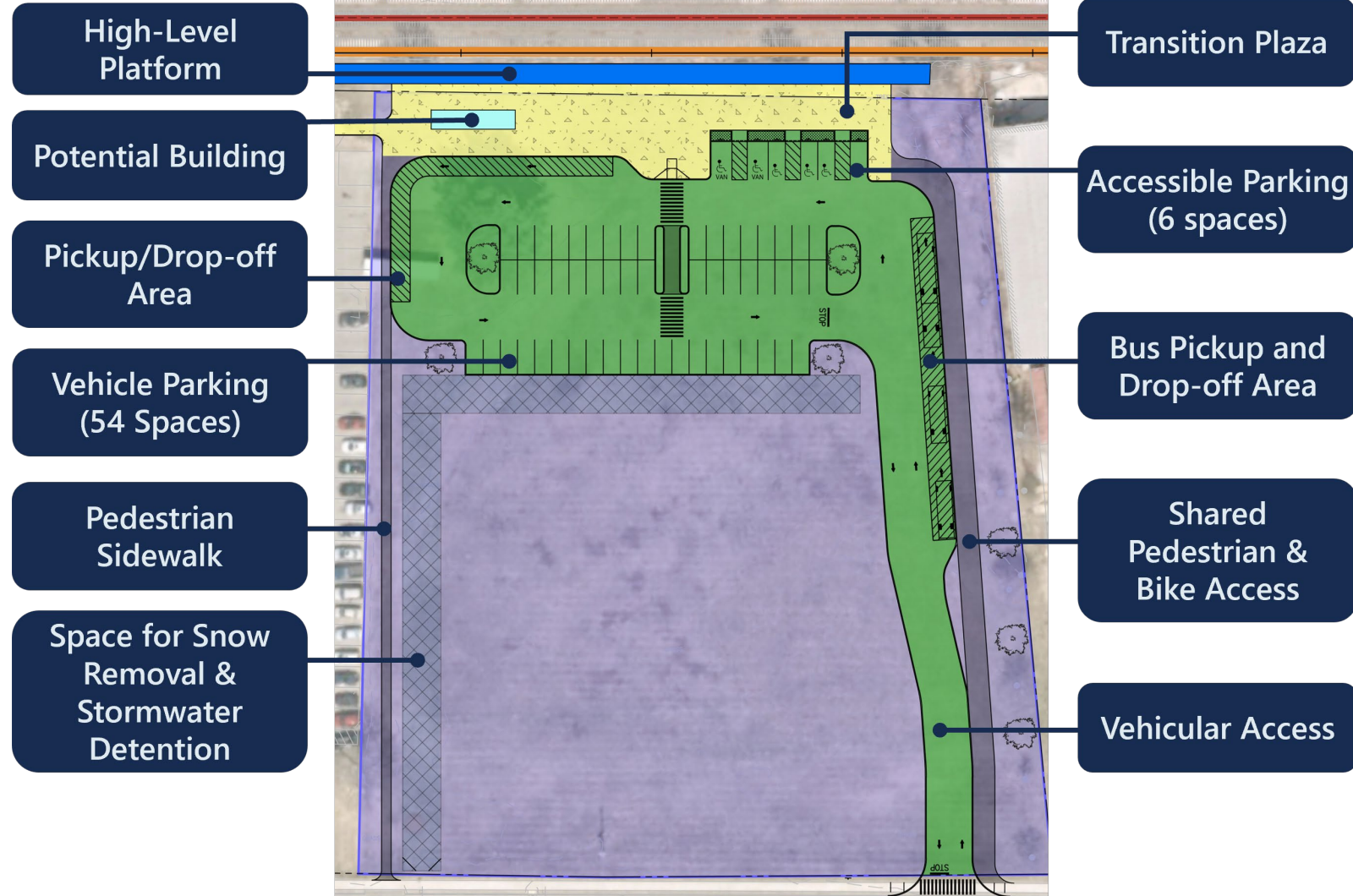


Conceptual Design

Site Plan



Current Site

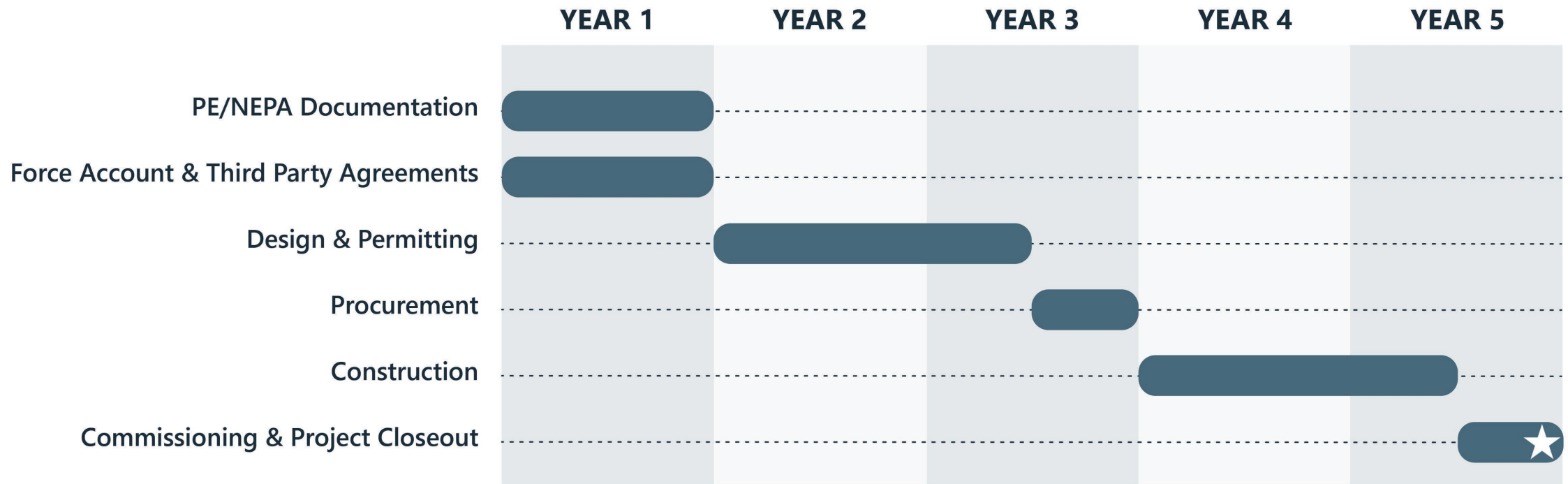


Cost and Schedule

Order-of-Magnitude Cost Estimate & Conceptual Schedule

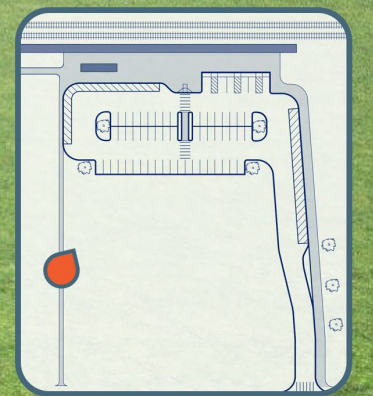


\$25-35 Million (Order-of-Magnitude Capital Cost Estimate)



Rendered View

Sidewalk Access



Rendered View

From South Main Street



Rendered View

Bus Area



Rendered View

Station Platform and Plaza



Rendered View

Parking Area



Rendered View

Station Entry



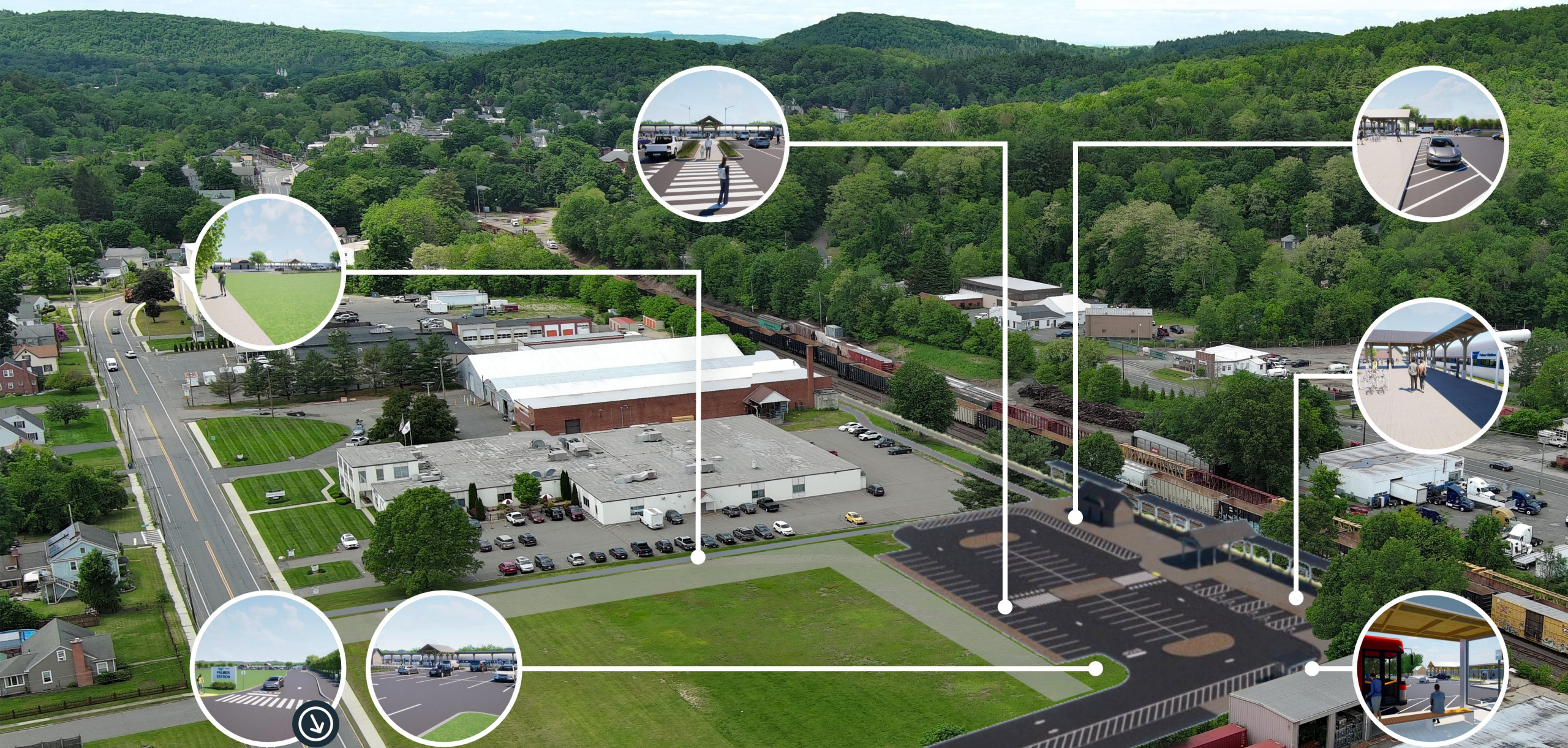
Rendered View

Pick-Up/Drop-Off Area



Rendered View

Station Site in Context





Next Steps

Next Steps

- **Palmer Station Planning and Design (2025):**
 - Finalize Conceptual Design Report
 - Complete Transportation Impact and Access Study, Market Analysis, and Environmental Review
- **Boston & Albany Service Development Plan**

For More Information

Project Website:

www.mass.gov/info-details/palmer-station-planning-design

Email:

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Public Comment / Q&A

