

## Overall Project

### **Q. What is the Ypsilanti Transit Center Project?**

A. The Ypsilanti Transit Center, also known as the YTC, provides transit services to members of Ypsilanti and surrounding areas. This project includes planning, development, and construction of a new transit center in Ypsilanti for the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (TheRide), as part of TheRide's Long-Range Plan. Steps are underway to engage the public, design and plan the new center, address funding, and meet requirements at the state and federal levels.

### **Q. Why is a new transit center needed?**

A. The current Ypsilanti Transit Center was built in 1993. At the time, it met the needs of our ridership levels and staff. Today, however, with the increased number of riders, buses, and staff, the existing facility and site no longer offers adequate space. A new facility aligns with our Long-Range Plan and accommodates growth while providing staff and riders with a more comfortable, safe, and efficient transit experience.

### **Q. Is TheRide building a brand-new transit center in Ypsilanti?**

A. Yes. At over 30 years old with limited expansion opportunities for more buses, a fully new facility in Ypsilanti is needed to address the growing population and services across Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor.

### **Q. What is the timeline for the new center?**

A. In 2025, we intend to complete Phase II of the project, which includes required environmental documentation work and concept development. After the design team completes Phase II, the following timeline is anticipated (this represents an ideal timeline for the project and is subject to change):

2025-2026 – Complete Phase III

- Design Development
- Land Acquisition

2026-2027 – Complete Phase IV and V

- Final Design
- Construction Bidding
- Construction

Late 2027 or 2028 – Open New Facility

## Project Cost

### **Q. How much will the new site cost to build?**

A. The current estimated cost for the entire project, including planning, design, environmental review, land acquisition, and construction, is approximately \$23 million. This budget estimate was developed from the 2018 conceptual plans and present-day development costs; the project team will revise this budget as the current planning and design phase continues.

**Q. How is the new center being funded?**

A. TheRide will use a mix of funding for this project, including capital reserves and grant funding. To date, TheRide received \$300,000 in federal funds for the planning stages of the project, secured by U.S. Senator Gary Peters, as well as \$7 million in federal funds for the construction of the building, secured by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. TheRide is seeking competitive grants to support the project while also continuing conversations around land acquisition to support the expansion of the YTC.

**Q. Will fares go up because of the new center?**

A. Passenger fare rates are not tied to the funding plan for this new facility. No fare changes will occur because of the new center and no fare changes are currently planned.

## Location

**Q. Will this new terminal require the removal of any existing buildings?**

A. TheRide recognizes the importance of preserving significant structures in our community, and the Spring 2024 public engagement highlighted the need to preserve historic and commercial properties in the City of Ypsilanti. AAATA will not purchase nor teardown any existing structures except the existing YTC facility. The chosen concept avoids all buildings on Adams and Washington Streets. TheRide also continues to coordinate with the City of Ypsilanti and its Historic District Commission to understand the historical impacts of the project and take necessary steps to meet guidelines and requirements.

**Q. Will the new YTC be built at the same location?**

A. Following extensive public and stakeholder feedback throughout 2024, the project team confirmed that the new YTC facility will be built on the existing site along with portions of the adjacent Washington Street parking lot. Since TheRide will use federal funding to build the new center, we are working closely with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to determine the environmental and community impacts of the final site selection and preferred site concept. TheRide will share those results when finalized.

**Q. What is the expected size of the new YTC?**

A. TheRide's project team worked with internal and external stakeholders to determine the space needed for current transit operations and plan for growth through 2045. The new YTC facility will have about 6,250 sq. ft. of useable space, which is over three times the size of the existing YTC. The overall footprint of the building will be about 6,700 sq. ft. The facility will be a single floor. The platform will include capacity for at least 10 bus bays, including one bay that can accommodate a longer bus than we operate today. The site also includes additional stand-by bays to aid in smooth operations of bus and driver changes, driver training, and maintenance.

## Site and Facility Features

### **Q. Will accessibility features be added into the new facility?**

A. Yes. While designs have not progressed far enough to provide specific details, TheRide is committed to accessibility for our staff and riders.

### **Q. I've been to other transit centers and noticed that they have different amenities and features. Will the new YTC have the same things?**

A. We're doing extensive stakeholder engagement to determine what works and what doesn't work at other transit centers, including the Blake Transit Center. We encourage anyone interested to share their feedback through our virtual open house and public drop-in meeting taking place in April and May.

### **Q. Will the new Ypsilanti Transit Center accommodate other modes of transportation, like rideshare services, taxis, or FlexRide (a demand-response transportation service)?**

A. Yes. Space for growth in this area is being considered as we look toward the future of transportation in Ypsilanti and the needs of our community.

### **Q. Will the new Transit Center accommodate biking?**

A. Biking and accommodation for bikes will be included to support the needs of our riders. The Needs Assessment developed in 2018 highlighted a need for bike racks and TheRide 2045 prioritizes this need.

## Communication

### **How can I learn more and provide feedback?**

TheRide is accepting feedback **April 17 – May 23**, 2025. To learn more, visit: [TheRideYTC.org](https://www.theride.org/YTC)

There are multiple ways to provide feedback:

- Visit the virtual open house to review information and comment: [TheRideYTC.org](https://www.theride.org/YTC)
- Attend a public meeting:
  - Thursday, April 24, 2:00pm – 6:00pm at the Ypsilanti Transit Center
    - 220 Pearl Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
  - Thursday, May 15, 6:30pm – 9:00pm at [TheRide Board Meeting](#), Riverside Arts Center
    - 76 N Huron St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
- Call:  
734-794-1882
- Email:  
[YTCInfo@theride.org](mailto:YTCInfo@theride.org)
- Write:  
Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority  
ATTN: YTC Feedback  
2700 S. Industrial Highway  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104