

Philadelphia, PA

West Market-Frankford Transit-Oriented Development Study



The Market-Frankford elevated train in Philadelphia runs through urban areas that have experienced population decline and neighborhood change since their mid-twentieth century heyday. Such areas are ripe for transit-oriented development (TOD), since they are well-served by transit but lack economic investments. Nelson\Nygaard handled the transportation component of the Transportation and Community Development Initiative project, a program begun by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to invigorate declining areas of the Philadelphia region.

Nelson\Nygaard collected pedestrian, transit, vehicle, parking, and bicycle data around stations in the Market Street and Frankford Avenue corridors. Both areas have vibrant commercial strips and experience low vehicular volumes. Market Street has much more development surrounding the elevated train than Frankford Avenue, where retail quickly falls away within a block from the train.

Data analysis included level of service calculations for transit, pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles. Crash data, was retrieved and was used to discover correlations between traffic conditions and pedestrian injuries. Results revealed many opportunities for linking transit riders to the elevated train, including turning unused alleys into pedestrian walkways, adding a bicycle boulevard, and better linking parking management to land use and zoning overlays.

As part of the public outreach process, Nelson\Nygaard created a TOD best practices manual, pulling together practical guidelines such as minimum sidewalk widths and public policies like parking benefit districts, along with images of TOD strategies from around the world. Lastly, the team detailed standards for future development and how to implement policies such as residential parking permits, sidewalk maintenance programs, and off-street parking facility design.



Project Duration: 2005-2006

Total Budget: \$100,000

Nelson\Nygaard Budget: \$35,000

For more information:

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