

Spokane, WA

Plaza Central Transit Center Revitalization Study



The Spokane Transit Authority (STA) hired Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates to evaluate opportunities for abandoning its existing central transfer center (the “Plaza”) in favor of one or more new transfer facilities outside the downtown core. Nelson\Nygaard undertook a comprehensive review of the facility which included passenger/pedestrian intercept surveys, a functional review of the site (interior spaces, sidewalks, lighting, signage, etc) and an operational analysis of bus movements and passenger transfer activity.

The analysis also included a comparison of passenger origin and destination data with downtown trip generators and development patterns. Based on this analysis, and input from the STA Board, an initial list of five potential sites/ opportunities was identified which included:

- Stay in the existing facility
- Move to two, smaller satellite facilities
- Move to a 3 block long transit mall
- Move to a new central facility at the Amtrak station

Eliminate the central transfer facility concept and replace it with a high frequency downtown grid

Nelson\Nygaard assisted the group with narrowing its choices to two options. These underwent an additional level of analysis, accompanied by outreach to key stakeholders and the development of visual simulation models. The Board decided to renovate the existing facility because it was demonstrated that:

- It would save STA about \$5 million in capital costs
- It was closest to where people wanted to go
- It offered the best opportunity for streamlining bus operations and reducing turning movements in downtown Spokane

Existing Facility



Proposed Facility



Project Duration: 2006-2009

Total Budget: \$500,000

For more information:

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