

# Regional Transit Authority Board Meeting

Interim Downtown Transit Hub Conceptual Plan Update

RTA Board Operations and Finance Committees August 12, 2021



Purpose and Need Alternatives Considered Proposed Site Overview Detailed Site Improvements Amenities and Opportunities Schedule Preliminary Budget





- Current conditions were unplanned and temporary
- Duncan Plaza was ultimately settled on as an emergency relocation transfer point since October 2019 and continues to operate as such to date.
- RTA Board approved a permanent location for a downtown transfer center on Basin St neutral ground at Canal St.
- The permanent facility take 4-5 years to complete
- An interim solution is required



Duncan Plaza is space constrained to provide necessary amenities as primary transfer point including shelters and ADA accessibility without major reconstruction

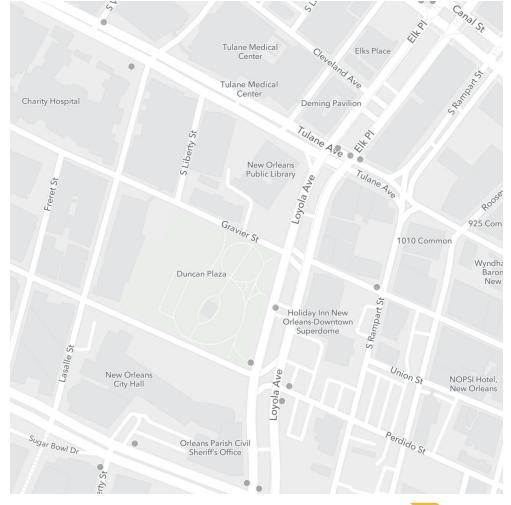


West Bank riders have poor waiting conditions and have a dangerous crossing to transfer to busses at Duncan Plaza



With staff and rider feedback the interim solution needs to include the following:

- <u>Reduce transfer distances</u> between stop locations
- <u>Provide rider and operator amenities</u>, consider colocated near buildings that provide good overhand during severe rain
- <u>Reduce turnaround time for buses</u> by improving routing
- <u>Improve pedestrian safety</u>, particularly crossing Loyola Av
- Maintain public safety improvements





## **Alternatives Considered**

### Pre-Hard Rock:

- Return to multi-stop distributed hub pre-October 2019
- Area attracted significant crime putting more riders at risk
- Stop spread out over several blocks block by buildings

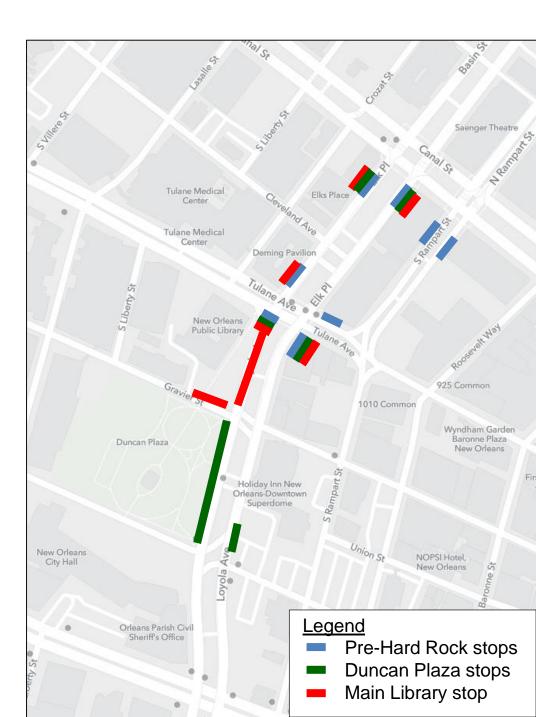
## <u>Duncan Plaza</u>

- Stay at existing location and improve amenities
- Turnaround for busses are longer
- Dangerous crossings for pedestrians
- Much reduce crime in the area

## Main Library

- Consolidate stops primarily around Main Library and limit crossings for most transfers to lakeside of Loyola St
- Turnaround for busses shorted for several routes

| Criteria                            | Pre-Hard<br>Rock | Duncan<br>Plaza | Main<br>Library |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Reduce transfer distances           | 1                | 2               | 4               |
| Provide better amenities            | 2                | 3               | 4               |
| Reduce turnaround time for buses    | 3                | 2               | 4               |
| Improve pedestrian safety           | 2                | 2               | 4               |
| Maintain public safety improvements | 2                | 5               | 4               |



## **Proposed Site Overview**

### A.N.O East busses (62, 63, 64, 65, E1) Existing benches Install new canopies or shelter "awnings"

## **B.West Bank busses**

(84, 101, 102, 103, 106, 114, 115, W1, W2) Replace existing 12' shelter; Replace sidewalk for ADA compliance

### C.Gentilly, Mid-City, Uptown

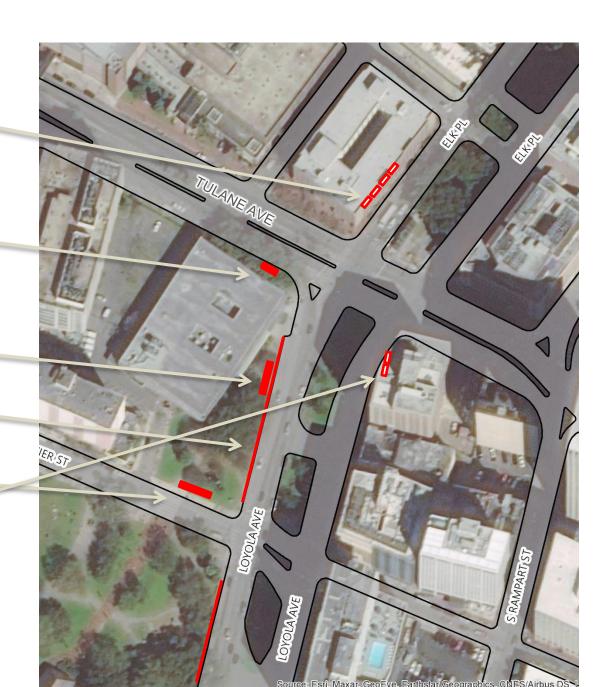
(15, 32, 51, 52, 57, 80, 88, 91in) Requires new 24' shelter + pad and sidewalk fill to curb Optional site enhancements and programming

## D.Turnaround (39)

Install new shelter + pad Sidewalk needs replacement Requires detail Ops/Safety review

## E.Through routes + JeT

(91out) Install new shelter canopies (awnings) + benches NOTE: sidewalk is not ADA







#### Construction Scope:

- Install new shelter "awnings" against building edge to cover benches 1.
- 2. Clean up and re-organize placement of trash can, signage and other sidewalk items to improve clearances and navigation

#### Street Scope (DPW)

- 3. Remove 4 un-metered on-street parking spaces on Elk St
- 4. Extend Bus Only lane striping and marking 130' from Cleveland Av

#### Transit Operations Impact (shown at right)

- All inbound busses from New Orleans East -(route #s 62, 63, 64, 65)
- Return to East via Tulane Av with shortened turnaround compared to existing

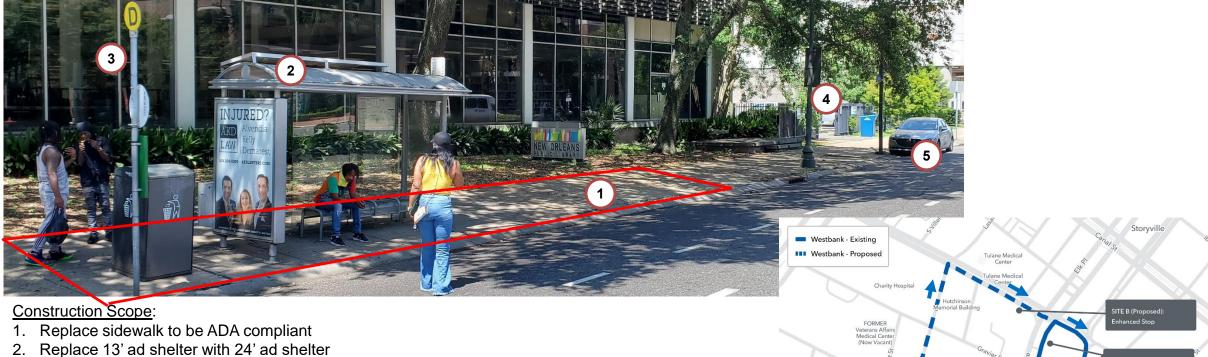


() mapbox () remix





## Site B: Tulane Av (inbound)



urrent stop

rst National Bank of Comme Building

Duncan Plaza

515 Poydras

New Orleans City Hall

1250 Poydras

Hyatt Regend New Orlean

- 2.
- 3. Replace signage and wayfinding information

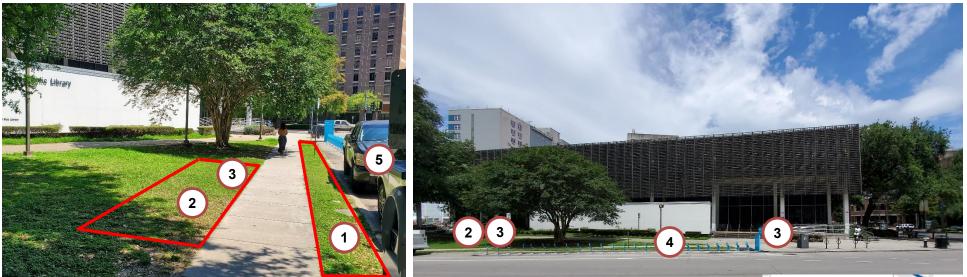
#### Street Impact (NOPL)

- 4. Potential closure of 1 driveway to employee parking lot
- Remove 1 unmetered on-street parking spot 5.

#### Transit Operations Impact (shown at right)

- All inbound West Bank busses continue up Poydras, turning on LaSalle St (v. -Loyola) and onto Tulane Av (Route # 84, 101, 102, 103, 106, 114, 115)
- Return to West Bank via current route





#### Construction Scope:

- 1. Extend sidewalk to curb
- 2. Install new pad for 24' ad shelter
- 3. New signage and wayfinding information

#### Street Impact (NOPL/DPW)

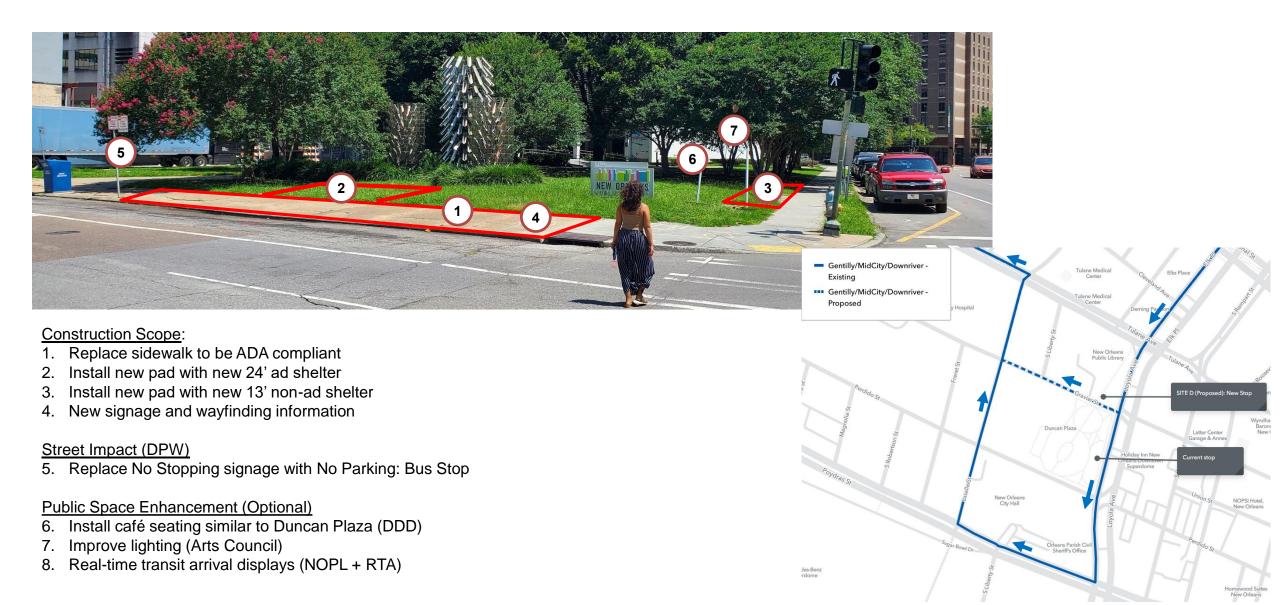
- 4. Relocated Blue Bike racks to sidewalk fronting library
- 5. Remove on-street parking (5 metered + 1 ADA) and replace with Bus Only parking (restore all metered parking fronting Duncan Plaza)

#### Transit Operations Impact (shown at right)

- Inbound busses from Gentilly, Uptown and downriver (route #s 15, 32, 51, 52, 57, 80, 88, 91 inbound)







## Amenities and Opportunities

<u>Need</u> to add basic transit amenities:

- Ticketing/supervisor booth
- Restroom for operators
- Real-time information



<u>Opportunity</u> to co-program space as an inviting, active and creative place:











| Scope                        | July | August | September | October | November | December |
|------------------------------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| City and stakeholder* review |      |        |           |         |          |          |
| Rider/community input        |      |        | RAC       |         |          |          |
| Board Approval               |      |        |           |         |          |          |
| Surveying & design (on-call) |      |        |           |         |          |          |
| Permitting (CNO)             |      |        |           |         |          |          |
| Construction (on-call)       |      |        |           |         |          |          |

\*Key Stakeholders:

- 1. Riders
- 2. City of New Orleans
  - Department of Public Works
  - Property Management
  - Mayor's Office of Transportation
  - New Orleans Public Library
- 3. Tulane University
- 4. Downtown Development District
- 5. New Orleans City Council





## Preliminary Budget

| ITEM                             | COST      |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| <u>Amenities</u>                 |           |
| New 13' Cantilevered Shelter     | \$25,000  |
| LED Solar Lighting               | \$14,535  |
| Rear Acrylic Wall w/map          | \$4,410   |
| Shelter Installation (9 total)   | \$334,170 |
| Supervisor booth                 | \$20,000  |
| New wayfinding signage           | \$4,000   |
| Site Work                        |           |
| Rebuild sidewalks (sq ft)        | \$25,500  |
| Extend sidewalks to curb (sq ft) | \$15,000  |
| New shelter pads (sq ft)         | \$9,000   |
| Improved lighting                | \$40,000  |
| Operator Restroom                | \$100,000 |
| Engineering Cost                 | \$58,762  |
| Project Admin/Management         | \$17,628  |
| Escalation                       | \$33,200  |
| Contingency                      | \$99,601  |
| TOTAL PROJECT COST               | \$800,806 |

