

Revitalization of Pickering Square

Update: February 13, 2017



Goals of the Project

- Better experience for bus users
- Better experience for Pickering Square Garage users
- Pedestrian connection between downtown and waterfront
- Incorporation of public space for events/recreation



Update on Process

- Staff have investigated a large number of options for feasibility based on feedback from October discussion, as well as public submissions
- Many sites presented did not meet minimum criteria for the locating the bus hub (stacking, turning movements)
- Staff have three options for discussion



Option 1 – Abbott Square



Option 1

Pros

- Access to key services - Post Office, Federal Building, Penquis, Library, City Hall
- City already owns the land

Cons

- Loss of paying permit spaces in Upper Abbott, relocation of permit holders to Lower Abbott, dislocating those permit holders to a newly constructed lot on Spring Street
- Route timing to be determined
- Downtown stops may be needed
- Mixes parking, cars, and pedestrians
- Grade change to Franklin Street on Southwest corner



Option 2 – Washington Street



Option 2

Pros

- Potential for multimodal hub in the future
- Lots of room to work with – could expand site in future to add complimentary uses/services
- Defined order/lane for buses, buses would be in almost the same location each time
- Proximity to convenience stores (Walgreen's, Family Dollar, RH Foster)
- Downtown would need to be served by a downtown express shuttle – a small bus on a continuous loop through Downtown, which would arguably improve service to some key downtown locations

Cons

- Routing timing to be determined
- Significant pedestrian enhancements needed in area
- Distance from downtown for those who would rather walk than wait for a transfer or shuttle



Option 3 – Pickering Square



Option 3

Pros

- No change to bus schedules and routes, can accommodate all buses
- Keeps bus depot in central location
- Separates bus traffic, pedestrian traffic, and garage traffic and creates defined area for buses and bus support functions
- Creates a significant, contiguous open space adjacent to the Maine Discovery Museum (noted earlier as a desire)
- Addition of 16 new parking spaces to garage and associated additional revenue
- New waiting area can include space for police presence

Cons

- Bus hub fragments the potential large open space
- Loss of 3 on-street parking spaces



Next Steps

- Public input and extensive dialogue with stakeholders regarding the options that remain under consideration
- Detailed cost estimates and engineering
- Planning for amenities
- Pocket park ideas

