

1/19/17

My name is Jane Cox and I live in Snyder, New York. I have been a frequent Amtrak traveler for the past 15+ years. I use the Buffalo/Depew Station when I travel.

I believe the two best train station site options are the Central Terminal and the Buffalo/Depew station site.

CENTRAL TERMINAL is the most exciting proposal. Its beautiful architecture would be a real showplace for Buffalo, as it was in the past. All the trains can use this station. With a big influx of funding for rehab, food areas and some shopping, Central Terminal could be restored. It would require a convenient passenger and luggage drive-thru/drop-off area, and a large, secure parking lot in order to attract users. Transportation to downtown Buffalo and the airport could be added by MetroRail or bus service, but the Committee needs to keep in mind the very early and very late hours that the Amtrak trains run. Trains can and do run late, due to freight traffic and other delays. There would need to be taxis available (maybe Uber by then).

My second suggestion (which I believe is the only other viable location) would be to either expand or replace the BUFFALO/DEPEW Station. This station already handles all of the train routes. It has a parking lot that is heavily used and would need to be expanded. It needs a coffee shop or restaurant, instead of a vending machine. It has handicapped accessible restrooms. However, for this station to be more accessible, the station should have a platform that is level with the tracks. Right now, rail passengers board and disembark from trains onto small "footstools" while juggling backpacks and luggage. Also, it would be nice to have a larger, covered platform as protection from the rain and snow. A transportation link to the airport might be helpful to some passengers. Taxis are available at this station. If this station was rebuilt, I'm sure you could design a beautiful building.

I cannot fathom the idea of a new train station in downtown Buffalo. The Exchange Street Station does not serve the trains running to Chicago or Albany/New York City/Boston. I personally couldn't haul my luggage onto the MetroRail or a bus to get downtown, and the MetroRail trains stop running at night. There is no long term parking available, as there is at the Depew station. If I had a ride to a downtown station, I would need to be dropped off during morning rush hour and picked up after midnight. I urge the Committee to PLEASE LOOK AT THE TRAIN TIMETABLES SERVING BUFFALO WHEN YOU ARE CONSIDERING YOUR DECISION.

(over)

I travel on Amtrak 3 or 4 times year from Buffalo (through either New York City or Boston) to Providence, RI. I've been back and forth to Savannah, Georgia. My husband and I have also traveled from Buffalo to Los Angeles on all four of the Amtrak cross-country routes, and across Canada from Toronto to Vancouver on ViaRail. We've also taken the train to the Buffalo Central Terminal (years ago, when it was an active station). We have seen a lot of train stations, large and small. The best stations have facilities to accommodate travelers who may be delayed between connections or are awaiting rides from the station. Clean restrooms, 24-hour food availability, comfortable seating, and local travel information are important to train travelers, as is a convenient location and a safe parking lot.

In my years of traveling, I have seen a large increase in the number of passengers using the train. Amtrak's business is booming. There tends to be a lot of college students, business people and senior citizens using the train. Most of us agree that airline travel has become challenging, and the more relaxing train trip is the way to go.

I urge to you PLEASE KEEP THE PASSENGERS IN MIND, not just the idea of where to add a nice building to our community. Best wishes to the Committee in their decision-making.