

## Purpose and Needs Statement Multimodal Facility

The City of Kent and Kent State University have expressed the desire to enhance physical connections between downtown Kent and the University. Establishing a high-density multimodal facility can both capture traffic at primary roads and arterial system (Haymaker Parkway) and transfer vehicle occupants to pedestrian, bicycle and transit systems connecting downtown Kent, the University and Northeast Ohio. The western area of campus is seeing renewed academic activities, cultural activities and special events.

Consideration should be given throughout the design and construction of this project to move people seamlessly through the system between the campus and the community. We visualize this facility to be a transfer station, encouraging people to change from personal vehicles to another form of transportation. The facility should act as both an arrival point for and a portal to the City and University. We see the possibility of such a facility encouraging people to patronize nearby private businesses, encouraging more business development around campus and into downtown Kent. We see that this facility could serve as a meeting place or destination in itself for classrooms, art events, and a welcome center for both the campus and the city. The facility can be a connector for both community and university. As such, it must be designed as a vital civic space.

Consideration should be given throughout the design and construction of this project to minimize the possible negative impacts and accentuate the positive impacts the project may have on surrounding neighborhoods and business interests. It must build upon the transportation planning and other principles used in the Crain Avenue Bridge Project Purpose and Needs Statement, the Terrace Area Parking Purpose and Needs Statement, the Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan and other City/Campus Projects as they evolve. Further, the development of the multimodal facility needs to be integrated with improvements to Summit Street, and other City Transportation Projects.

The project activity consists of:

- A. Locating the facility to optimize University, City, Business, PARTA and user needs.
- B. Encouraging economic development opportunities (e.g. welcome center, hotel, conference center, etc.) and enhancing Main Street as a connection between Kent State University and downtown Kent.
- C. Designing a facility and associated components to meet the purposes and variety of the objectives listed below.

Project Objectives:

1. Design a facility where all modes of transportation connect (transit, bicycle, pedestrian systems), thereby encouraging pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
2. The facility should be designed to assure safety and security.
3. The facility should integrate with the City's intelligent traffic planning

4. The facility should take advantage of the topography.
5. The facility should be an attractive, unique facility integrating development opportunities (e.g. housing, office, etc.) along its frontage. It should be in tune with its surroundings, scaled accordingly and represent Kent's historical architecture.
6. The facility should be designed to create/enhance multiple convenient connections between downtown Kent and Kent State University.
7. The facility should be designed to accommodate future modification for alternate transportation needs (e.g. commuter rail, airport limousine, shared cars, electric cars, segways, intercity buses, taxis, car rental, bike parking, bike racks and lockers, bike rental, motorcycle parking, pedestrian access to the campus, Esplanade, downtown Kent, The Portage Hike & Bike Trail, etc.)
8. The facility should utilize green building strategies and employ eco-friendly operational strategies.
9. The facility shall be designed and operated so as to minimize the environmental impact on neighboring properties (i.e. noise and light pollution, water runoff, litter, etc.)

This Purpose and Needs Statement explicitly does not address the location of the multimodal facility or its overall size or its parking capacity. Neither is the cost nor the scope of its amenities delineated.