

<u>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</u> (August 18, 2022) – Pittsburgh Regional Transit is launching Building on the East Busway (BOTEB), a planning effort to evaluate and design additional stations, and re-design Wilkinsburg Station along the Martin Luther King, Jr. East Busway.

This effort includes planning for three new stations along the busway – Baum-Centre, Larimer, and Brushton; developing a station area plan for the existing Wilkinsburg Station that will explore opportunities to improve station access and design; and identifying opportunities for equitable transit-oriented development on PRT-owned property.

"The East Busway is a tremendous community and regional asset that has allowed us to provide fast, frequent, and reliable service for more than 40 years," said Pittsburgh Regional Transit's Chief Development Officer David Huffaker. "We're excited to explore the potential of bringing that service to even more people."

PRT is currently seeking input for the Wilkinsburg and Brushton station areas, and will host two public meetings to discuss existing conditions. Both meetings will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. The first meeting will be held online from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The second meeting will be held in-person from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Hosanna House in Wilkinsburg.

Designs for the infill stations and the potential new station in Wilkinsburg are expected to be complete by summer 2023. Public engagement will continue throughout the planning process.

In June 2020, Federal Transit Administration awarded PRT \$682,500 – and PRT matched \$227,500 – to conduct a transit-oriented development study along the busway between Oakland and Wilkinsburg.

In February 2022, PRT received \$5.4 million to help build a new transportation center in Wilkinsburg. The total cost of that project is expected to be about \$8 million.

For more information or to sign up to attend the upcoming public meetings, visit www.rideprt.org/BOTEB.

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