

AGENDA # 2

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

PRESENTED: May 26, 2021

TITLE: East-West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
Station Design Competition. (65580)

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Janine Glaeser, Secretary

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: May 26, 2021

ID NUMBER:

Members present were: Cliff Goodhart, Chair; Tom DeChant, Lois Braun-Oddo, Rafeeq Asad, Shane Bernau, Craig Weisensel, Russell Knudson, Christian Harper, Christian Albouras and Jessica Klehr*.

*Klehr recused herself on this item.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of May 26, 2021, the Urban Design Commission **ACCEPTED** the report of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Station Design Competition. Registered and speaking in support was Justin Stuehrenberg, representing Madison Metro Transit. Registered in support and available to answer questions were Mike Cechvala, representing City of Madison Transportation Division; and Melissa Huggins, representing Madison Metro.

The BRT stations are akin to a small train station and will provide amenities, speed the boarding process, and be recognizable as a piece of the system. It is important for the stations to be consistent across the line. The competition enables a more uniquely “Madison” design, creates public excitement and interest, and allows inclusion of other stakeholder groups. Madison Metro received 61 design submissions that were put through a screening process with the architect and engineer to be reasonably adapted to be constructible and within the budget (many were screened out for cost concerns). Metro posted 23 finalists on their website to solicit public input; they received feedback from stakeholders and over 2,600 comments from the public. Staff compiled and assembled comments for a report that scored different designs based on predetermined criteria. The report recommends a first (\$10,000), second and third place winner (\$5,000 each), with the winning design being refined to a buildable set of plans.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Really encouraging the way the process was used to reach the community. Thinking about our current bus stops, the feature of wind screening, these all seem to be very open in their design. Was that a topic of discussion?
 - It was, there were many comments around that. The first place recommendation does have a more enclosed end and does provide some weather protection. There are physical space restraints for ADA access and maneuverability issues.
- There will be tweaks and modifications to bring it to a final design.

- (Secretary)The City Attorney reviewed this, the Urban Design Commission has not reviewed other bus shelters, these are technically placed in the public right-of-way, therefore the UDC would not review the final design. I would be happy to report back to the Commission with details on the final design.
- Doesn't seem like the covered roof area is as deep as the others, wonder if that's enough coverage from rain and the elements falling down. Could be looked at closer if that's the preferred concept.
 - The center area is covered with glass so it's essentially a clear glass or carbonite ceiling and protected from the weather.
- The green roofs probably aren't structurally strong enough to support the roofs pictured in some of the drawings.
 - What is shown here probably isn't achievable but we would do everything we could to maintain the intent of the original design as we go through the design process, including a potential scale back of the green roof. This one is more feasible because the non-glass portion of the roof is relatively small. The center platforms have dedicated bus lanes adjacent.
- There are a variety of options that potentially have much different dollar values. Is there a target budget, and by choosing one of these will you end up deconstructing the design to fit budget?
 - Yes, as part of the original screening. There is variability in cost with these options, but they can all be done within our budget.
- I like the simplicity of the second one but it's more practicality. I love the one chosen but I worry about the practicality of maintaining it and the budget.
- If you've ever caught a bus in Madison you're going to be cold and you're going to get wet.

ACTION:

On a motion by Asad, seconded by Knudson, the Urban Design Commission **ACCEPTED** the report. The motion was passed on a unanimous vote of (9-0).