



Amtrak's Plan for the Redevelopment of William H. Gray III 30th St Station

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About the Project

As the financial agreement between Amtrak and Plenary Infrastructure Philadelphia (PIP) has been reached, the proposal for the restoration and revocation of the William H. Gray III 30th St Station has been put into action. The plan for the renovation is that PIP will refurbish and upgrade the historic building which is bound by a 50-year term to preserve the station. The historic station is about 100 years old and is Amtrak's 3rd busiest station. The renovation is estimated to be about 500,000 square feet and the timeframe for the construction will be from 2022-2025. The estimated cost of this project is between \$300 million and \$400 million. The PIP team will include Plenary Americas, Gilbane Building Company, Johnson Controls, and Vantage Airport Group.

Renovation Overview

Arora, who is a design service company, has assisted in the multidisciplinary design for the redevelopment project. The plan is that in phase one, approximately 35,000 square feet of retail spaces and station services will be upgraded. In phase two, developments will be made to improve the passenger experience and the Station Plaza will be redesigned to be an inviting public space.

The mechanical engineers of Arora will be removing the existing Veolia district steam services during the renovation and they will be replaced with new hot water boiler plants that are run by natural gas. These new boiler plants will be gas-fired condensing-type boilers that will be providing low-temperature hot water to different air handling units (AHUs) and terminal heating equipment. Unfortunately, the transition and use of these new gas-fired boilers will increase carbon emissions by over 1,870 tons per year. From this, in the next 30 years, there will be more than 55,000 tons of carbon in the atmosphere. This component of the project should be changed to prevent further carbon

emissions into our environment. There is an ongoing [petition](#) for this issue that opposes the use of such gas boilers that increase the amount of carbon emissions in the air. To prevent further consequences to our environment, various actions such as signing a petition, sending letters to government officials, or contacting Amtrak themselves would be impactful actions. Another change that will be occurring is that there will be a new domestic water booster that will be similar to that of the HVAC heating hot water system. It will consist of a solar thermal heating system that will heat the fluids from the solar collectors.

Benefits of the Project

The renovation will improve the station's functionality and provide better service for Amtrak, SEPTA, and NJ TRANSIT customers. It will benefit the Market Street Plaza by allowing more retail offerings and other benefits to the community. The reconstruction will modernize the station, allow for an improved traveler experience, increase economic development, provide more local jobs, and become a pathway that connects West Philly to University City.

Looking Towards the Future

Overall, while this project will have its benefits, there are still factors that should be changed to prevent further harm to our environment. The transition to clean energy should be looked at to proceed with this renovation. Until then, our surroundings and communities will continue to deteriorate until further changes are made and enacted by companies and our government.

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