

Dear Friends at the Baederwood for Change,

I'm not sure if many of you know this but SEPTA is planning to turn the Jenkintown-Wyncote (JW) train station into a transportation hub that resembles the Fern Rock Transportation center. I saw the proposal last night at the workshop SEPTA presented at Jenkintown School and the planned development is enormous. The only difference that I can see between Fern Rock or Norristown Transportation centers and the planned JW Transportation Center is that SEPTA has promised a few trees and pretty roofs.

I've attached a link that has a picture of the Fern Rock Transportation and while it is not exactly the same (in the spirit of openness) - it is very similar in size and look.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fern_Rock_Transportation_Center

Much of the press coverage focuses on the 700 car parking garage but the truth of the matter is that SEPTA plans to have a Transportation center the size of the Fern Rock Transportation center or Norristown Transportation Center in the heart of Old Wyncote and Jenkintown destroying the character of the combined communities. When I first heard about this project I didn't think it was a big deal - it's only a garage I said. But I was really wrong! Yesterday's presentation showed me exactly what was being planned. The Transportation Hub that is being planned belongs in a city not in a suburban community. The size is more in place in New York City, Philadelphia or London!

According to SEPTA Jenkintown-Wyncote train station is their busiest center outside Philadelphia. But rather than offer better service along the Regional Lines to areas such as Hatboro-Horsham and Lansdale, SEPTA solution is to expand the JW Train Station. Folks from Hatboro-Horsham are driving 20 minutes to the JW Train Station because the local Hatboro-Horsham train station does not have good service. Many of the riders coming to the JW station are coming from areas such as Hatboro-Horsham Lansdale and Fort Washington that have train stations but poor service.

In the spirit of openness - SEPTA claims that their plans are only at 15% and that they are taking input from the community. Further due to the efforts of great folks in Cheltenham, SEPTA has agreed to look at other alternatives. However, we as a community really need to help the folks in Cheltenham fight this project. The project will severely impact the quality of life of the citizens of Old Wyncote and Jenkintown, as well as harm the environment (there is a creek along the train station) and destroy the historical character of the JW train station.

I am a strong supporter of public transportation and at one time my only form of transportation was the trains and buses. The Regional line is really a gem that is poorly serviced and not viewed in modern manner.

Please contact your State and Federal Representatives. Also for the folks who live in Cheltenham and Jenkintown please contact your commissioners and council people to voice your opposition to this project. I have copied on this email Olga McHugh, Dave Conly and Georgia McWhinney three wonderful people who are leaders in the opposition to JW transportation hub. Please give them your support

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Alexandria