

PART ONE

Summary of Public Comments and the Response to Comments

for the

PROPOSED

Amendment to the 2030 Transportation and
Development Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania
(North Shore LRT Connector Financial Plan Update)

Summary for the North Shore LRT Connector Long Range Plan Amendment
Summary of Public Testimony and the Response to Comments

Project	Project Description	Location	Comment Summary
North Shore Connector LRT	Supports the North Shore Connector LRT project.	Allegheny County	<i>Joseph Brandtner</i> My opinion on the North Shore Connector is that it must move ahead as quickly as possible. This is the next step of the future of light rail transit in this region for this and future generations. To go beyond the South Hills and downtown it must first go beyond Gateway Station and loop. The cost of construction is not going to decrease while the project is delayed.
<i>Response:</i>	Comment noted.		

Project	Project Description	Location	Comment Summary
North Shore Connector LRT	Opposes the North Shore Connector Project	Allegheny County	<p data-bbox="1236 188 1419 220"><i>Steven Brock</i></p> <p data-bbox="1236 228 1955 797">Within the last few weeks, the Port Authority of Allegheny County has been in the news concerning its budget. So far, the long mentioned drastic cuts in service and fare hikes have been postponed. Now, the last I heard, it will cost the Port Authority an additional 8.5 million dollars a year to operate the proposed North Shore connector if it is constructed. Why should an additional financial burden be added to PAT when it is already struggling with its budget? Will PAT eventually have to eliminate essential service or even shut down the connector in the future? Besides the effect on PAT's budget, local money will also be spent on this project causing a strain on local government budgets, and whenever they feel such strains, they raise taxes which forces more businesses out of the region. Compounding these problems is the fact that the cost of the project continues to escalate.</p>
<i>Response:</i>	Comment noted.		
North Shore Connector LRT-Gateway Line	Opposes the North Shore Connector Project	Allegheny County	<p data-bbox="1236 959 1940 1021"><i>Joanna Beres, Catholic Univ Of America, Architecture Student</i></p> <p data-bbox="1236 1029 1955 1195">I feel that the PAT tunnel project is moot. Utilization of an existing bridge would be more prudent with regard to the allocation of taxpayer's hard earned dollars. I hope that prudence is worked in to the budget allocation of maintaining and improving our transportation network.</p>
<i>Response:</i>	The design and alignment of the North Shore Connector Light Rail project have been developed and approved by the appropriate federal, state and local officials after extensive public outreach efforts.		

Project	Project Description	Location	Comment Summary
North Shore Connector LRT-Gateway Line	Opposes the North Shore Connector Project	Allegheny County	<p data-bbox="1236 188 1419 220"><i>Maggie Minor</i></p> <p data-bbox="1236 228 1965 391">Please be advised that I am against the use of any moneys used to build a tunnel under any river in Pittsburgh. I feel that the moneys could be put to better use in other areas like rebuilding New Orleans or giving much needed assistance to the poor and disabled.</p>
<i>Response:</i>	Comment noted.		
North Shore Connector LRT-Gateway Line	The line will be extended under the Allegheny River to the North Shore continue above ground to a station at Allegheny Avenue.	Allegheny County	<p data-bbox="1236 553 1709 586"><i>Marilyn Skolnick, PPP & Sierra Club</i></p> <p data-bbox="1236 594 1965 724">Please add to the plan , the North Shore Transit Project. After over 270 plus public meetings, the public agreed that this was a needed project and it must be added. There is funding for the project.</p>
<i>Response:</i>	The design and alignment of the North Shore Connector Light Rail project have been developed and approved by the appropriate federal, state and local officials after extensive public outreach efforts.		

Project	Project Description	Location	Comment Summary
North Shore Connector LRT-Gateway Line	Supports the North Shore Connector LRT project.	Allegheny County	<p data-bbox="1228 186 1606 219"><i>Ron Grimm, DRS Architects</i></p> <p data-bbox="1228 227 2001 764">I am in favor of the project to carry the 'T' to the North shore as well as tie the system to the Convention Center as we want our city to grow and it is essential in my opinion to minimize auto traffic in city, in the winter provide transit with minimal contact with the winter weather which allows conventions to operate year around if hotels, events and nightlife can be interconnected with minimum need to be slowed down by something like the weather which has always been a deterrent as a selling point of our fine city. Another important aspect of this commitment is the need to receive regular funding to sustain this public transit as the initiative to build various forms of living alternatives in the city, which will be able to tie North shore, city proper & Station square into a diverse area and allow the amenities to be utilized by locals as well as tourists.</p>

Response: Comment noted.

Project	Project Description	Location	Comment Summary
North Shore Connector LRT-Gateway Line	The line will be extended under the Allegheny River to the North Shore continue above ground to a station at Allegheny Avenue. (Opposes)	Allegheny County	<p data-bbox="1207 178 1428 219"><i>Sean Bridgen</i></p> <p data-bbox="1207 219 1995 803">The North Shore Connector project is a waste of money. While it is a great idea to connect the T to the North Shore, the tunnels are too expensive. Rather than spending all of this money so the folks from the South Hills can get to a baseball game, funding should be redirected to extend light rail to other communities and to projects such as the Allegheny Valley Commuter Rail line. Our region's public transit is pitiful compared to thriving cities like Portland and Seattle. We are losing young people to places like this yearly. A strong, multi-modal transit system is crucial for our region to compete in the 21st century. Allocating this obscene amount of money to run the T under the river while neglecting the need for transit improvements into town from places like the Allegheny Valley, Monroeville, and between Oakland and Downtown is wrongheaded. Please stop this project and focus on ones that will really help the region.</p>
<i>Response:</i>	Comment noted.		
North Shore Connector LRT-Gateway Line	Opposes the North Shore Connector Project	Allegheny County	<p data-bbox="1207 950 1701 990"><i>Tracy C. Gentile, Pittsburgh Claims</i></p> <p data-bbox="1207 990 1995 1128">I just wanted to comment that I think the project to install a tunnel to the North Shore is an unbelievable expense, and very unnecessary. I think that this project should be terminated.</p>
<i>Response:</i>	Comment noted.		