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Government

Walter Rand Makeover Would Accommodate Glassboro-Camden Light Rail Line



Preliminary rendering of study commissioned for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.
Rendering for DVRPC study

By Steven Rodas

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CAMDEN, NJ — The Walter Rand Transportation Center [is being made over](#) with the proposed Glassboro-Camden light rail line in mind, officials have confirmed to TAPinto Camden.

Gov. Phil Murphy paid a visit to Camden City on Wednesday morning to announce the \$250 million renovation, the first in the transit hub's 32-year history.

Kris Kolluri, CEO of non-profit Cooper's Ferry Partnership (which works with the city on development projects), says preliminary engineering of the Walter Rand expansion will take "a holistic view of potential improvements" when it comes to the area - including the light rail.

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The \$2 billion Glassboro-Camden Line (GCL) would run through Gloucester and Camden counties, including Glassboro, Pitman, Sewell, Mantua Twp., Deptford

Twp. Wenonah, Woodbury Heights, Woodbury, Westville, Brooklawn, Gloucester City and Camden.


Work to connect Glassboro has been ongoing for nearly two decades.

On Wednesday, the project's final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was [published](#) after feedback from hundreds of members of the community.




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State Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-Gloucester) said Wednesday the newly-refurbished Walter Rand Transportation Center will be, “critically important as we move forward on the next phase, light rail.”

“In this day, [when] mass transportation is a key component to any thriving region, it is hard to believe that the GCL is only the third commuter train system to service our expanding communities,” Commissioner Jeff Nash wrote in an Op-Ed sent to TAPinto recently.

 While there are vast commuter train systems found in North Jersey (PATH) and Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPTA), no such integral rail system was built to benefit Southern Jersey. As a result, we feel the enormous traffic congestion on many of our roadways, including Route 42, recognized as one of the worst traffic bottlenecks in the state,” he added.

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« In addition to improving service for the 26 bus lines that filter in and out of the transportation hub, the project plans to provide new opportunities for retail, office, housing and hospitality services.

Shelia Roberts, 70, who lives at Cooper Center, said Wednesday investing dollars into the center will be good for the region as a whole.

“This facility is one of the most important multi-modal transportation centers in New Jersey and particularly in South Jersey,” said Roberts. “It’s a significant part of economy and moving people to where they want to go.”

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A competition date has not yet been disclosed for the new Walter Rand Transportation Center.

GCL project updates can be found [here](#).

Read more about the Walter Rand project here: [\\$250M to Modernize Camden's Walter Rand Transportation Center for First Time Since 1989](#)

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