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VRT selects location for Multimodal Center

BOISE – (Aug. 18, 2011) – Following careful consideration of an alternative site, Valley Regional Transit (VRT) has reaffirmed that a half-block parcel between Idaho and Bannock streets on 11th Street is its preferred site for the new Multimodal Transportation Center in Downtown Boise.

The location, known as “Site H,” is located on the east side of 11th Street between Idaho and Bannock. VRT had been evaluating another parcel, known as “Site D,” located at the northeast corner of Main and 12th streets. The owners of that site have determined that a public-private development partnership is not feasible at this time.

VRT had previously approved Site H as the preferred location for the Multimodal Center, which will serve as a hub for multiple public transportation services, including buses, vanpools, carpools, taxis and bicycles. The Federal Transit Administration has already issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to VRT’s environmental analysis of Site H. VRT now intends to move ahead with an appraisal and negotiations with property owners and developers. The agency expects to begin the entitlement process with the City of Boise in late 2011.

“It was important to take a look at another site if it might lead to a private-public, transit-oriented development that would benefit the city’s residents and visitors,” said Kelli Fairless, executive director of VRT. “Having explored that avenue, it’s time to move forward with the preferred site, which already has environmental clearance.”

"The Capital City Development Corporation contacted Oppenheimer Development regarding Site D for the proposed Multimodal Center Project," said Jack Coonce, vice president of the Oppenheimer Development Corp. "We did a project feasibility analysis of potential additional uses and tenants and found today's market challenging.

"After considering the added investment required by Valley Regional Transit on Site D, we felt that it was in Valley Regional Transit’s best interest to continue on Site H."

Site H has the support of the City of Boise, Idaho Transportation Department, Ada County Highway District, and Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC). The total cost of the project is approximately \$12 million. CCDC is providing \$2.4 million in local matching funds, with the remainder of the project funded through a federal grant.

Multimodal centers are used in successful urban centers nationwide to make alternative forms of transportation fast and convenient. Downtown Boise’s Multimodal Center in Boise will be housed in a three-story, 75,000-square-foot facility including office space and at least two levels of public parking. Approximately 150 to 200 parking spaces will be provided for the public and to replace existing surface parking on the site. The facility could grow to as many as six levels if a private-public partnership adds more office space and parking.

Services and amenities planned at the Multimodal Center include:

- An indoor passenger plaza, including public restrooms.
- Sheltered outdoor waiting and seating areas.
- A service desk to answer questions, provide information and sell bus passes.
- Information kiosks with specific information about ValleyRide schedules, ACHD Commuteride vanpool services, carpool services, car-sharing services, bicycle-commuting maps and more.
- Public wireless Internet access.
- Bicycle storage locker area and showers.
- Public art incorporated into the building design.
- Taxi stand.
- Retail space
- Boise Police Department substation.
- Private security officers.
- 10,000 to 25,000 square feet of spec office space.

The attached fact sheet provides for more information about the key benefits of the Multimodal Center in Downtown Boise, a detailed schedule, preliminary design drawings, and more.

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