

**Remarks of Mayor Noam Bramson**  
Reimagining the New Rochelle Transit Center  
May 9, 2023

New Rochelle's Transit Center is at the very heart of our community: the focal point of the most ambitious downtown development in New Rochelle's history, and our chief connection to the larger world, from the core of New York City to the entire northeast corridor. The daily experience of thousands of residents and commuters, both train and bus, is shaped by the station's condition. And for thousands more visitors, it forms their very first impression of New Rochelle.

Unfortunately, for all its vital importance, in too many ways, our transit hub falls short. Hidden below grade, with entry points that are obscure or unattractive, poorly connected to nearby neighborhoods, challenging to navigate, especially for pedestrians, and aside from its core functions, mainly inactive. New Rochelle deserves better.

And so today, we begin the process of meeting these challenges head-on. Just a few moments ago, the City Council voted unanimously to initiate a comprehensive redesign of the Transit Center – the first in decades and perhaps the most innovative since our train station was first constructed back in 1887.

To partner with us in this exciting exercise, we are very pleased to designate FX Collaborative, a talented, multi-dimensional team, with extensive relevant experience and a deep commitment to the highest-quality design. Our shared vision preserves, restores, and celebrates the station house, a true gem of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, while bringing the rest of the Transit Center – from North Avenue to Memorial Highway, from surface plazas to multi-level parking – fully into the 21<sup>st</sup> in amenities, sustainability, appearance, and connectivity.

The renderings you see here give you just a taste of preliminary concepts, and we look forward to extensive public dialogue as these early images evolve into actionable plans.

This would be exciting under any circumstances, but is especially important at this moment in our history. As New Rochelle experiences the fastest growth in all of New York, it is vital that we have a transportation center that befits a

thriving city, meeting the needs and expectations of current and future generations.

And, of course, this has importance beyond New Rochelle, too. In just a few short years, Metro North will begin service to Penn Station, making New Rochelle the community closest to Manhattan with direct access to the east and west sides. That's a game-changing opportunity for our city to welcome many more travelers from far and wide, but one that also requires planning and intentionality to meet the moment.

To be sure, design is only step one. Successful execution will require time and resources. But having proven that we can set big goals and achieve them, New Rochelle is more than up to the challenge.

After all, this is part and parcel of a much broader transformation that is well underway. Our rising skyline. The LINC, the Echo Bay waterfront, the two-way conversation of Main and Huguenot Streets – bold, visionary changes in the public realm to match unprecedented private investment, and ensure that New Rochelle has the brightest possible future.

By the time this project is completed, I will no longer be in this role, but I take pleasure and pride in joining each of you today at the launch, and of knowing that this exciting initiative will remain in such creative, dedicated hands.