Public Transit Access to the Airport Area and Other Employment Concentrations

Improved public transit access from Southwest Philadelphia’s residential neighborhoods to the Philadelphia International Airport, Eastwick Industrial Park, and nearby businesses will increase employment opportunities for Southwest residents. The Southwest Economic Conference will encourage public transit access improvements including the addition and extension of public transit routes, increasing linkages, and frequency of service. Specific actions will include:

1. **Lobby for Eastwick Transportation Center.** The Southwest Economic Conference will lobby for the implementation of the proposed Eastwick Transportation Center at 84th Street and Bartram Avenue, particularly for the extension of the Route 36 trolley line.

2. **Encourage additional shuttle service routes.** In addition to the shuttle service routes proposed in the Airport Area Transit Study, the Southwest Economic Conference will encourage the implementation of a shuttle service from Island Avenue, connecting to Woodland Avenue’s Route 11 Trolley and Elmwood Avenue’s Route 36, to the Airport and area businesses. Additionally, the Southwest Economic Conference will encourage PIDC to push for better transit service to its Eastwick Industrial Park.
Public Transit Access to the Airport Area and Other Employment Concentrations

The Philadelphia International Airport hosts Southwest Philadelphia’s largest employment concentration with more than 14,700 jobs. **Southwest residents, however, fill only 8.6% of these jobs.** Southwest residents have expressed a need for improved public transit access to Airport area jobs. Additionally, Airport area business interviews revealed a desire for more frequent and reliable public transit for employees commuting to and from work and for access to lunchtime eating places and convenience shops.

While Southwest Philadelphia has an extensive public transit network linking its neighborhoods to Center City, **the area is lacking north-south transit routes**, particularly between the residential neighborhoods and the commercial/industrial Airport area.

Access to the Airport area will improve with the implementation of the proposed Eastwick Transportation Center (ETC) on Bartram Avenue at 84th Street. SEPTA’s *Eastwick Transportation Center Needs Assessment and Conceptual Design Study* (2001) proposes the extension of Route 36 from Island Avenue to the ETC. The Philadelphia City Planning Commission and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission’s *Airport Area Transit Study* (2001) made route and service frequency recommendations that would reinforce the proposed ETC as a transit hub with the addition of shuttle bus routes from the ETC to area employers (though not the Eastwick Industrial park). The study also examines the potential of adding additional bus routes to serve the area and extending existing bus routes, such as the G Route, to connect with other transit options at the ETC.

*The proposed Eastwick Transportation Center will be developed at the site of the R1 Eastwick station.*