

# ENVISION DEPOT SQUARE HOLYOKE

**This project provides a great opportunity to learn more about what new train service to Holyoke means for the economic and community development of Depot Square.**

The goal of the project is to engage a wide range of people who live and work in the Depot Square area through a series of interactive events and discussions. These opportunities will provide concrete and inclusive ways to imagine what life in the this area can be like—next year, in five years, in twenty years—and how the community can help shape a vision of a revitalized Holyoke.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT:

### Where is Depot Square?

Historically Depot Square was an open area that stretched from Dwight to Appleton Streets along Main Street, and where passenger and freight trains arrived and departed at the original Holyoke train depot. Today “Depot Square” is considered an area bounded by Appleton, Race, Lyman and Bower Streets.

### What is the “Envision Depot Square Holyoke” project about?

In many cities the creation of a transportation hub/station can catalyze new opportunities in the surrounding neighborhood. Housing, commercial, professional, and retail uses, civic and public spaces, and pedestrian friendly amenities that develop around a transit station are typically described as Transit Oriented Development (TOD). The “Envision Depot Square Holyoke” project provides opportunities for people who live and work in (or near) Depot Square to imagine and contribute to its TOD future.

### What are the short and long term plans for Depot Square?

Passenger rail train service to Holyoke will re-start in two years and a new train platform will be built near the intersection of Dwight and Main Streets. By 2014 Amtrak’s “Vermont” line will stop twice a day in Holyoke (once in each direction) as it travels between Washington DC and St. Albans, Vermont. Regional commuter service is also being discussed and planned for the future.

### Why wasn’t the new platform located at the existing station on Lyman and Bowers Street?

Current standards for train platforms made it difficult to integrate the platform with the existing station. In addition, the selected location on Dwight Street is the site of the original train depot (before 1885) and connects directly to Dwight Street and the city center.

### What will happen to the existing station on Bowers Street?

The renowned American architect H.H. Richardson designed the current station, which opened in 1885, and is an important part of Holyoke’s rich architectural heritage. This station will be studied as part of this project and new uses and development strategies will be sought for the building.

### How can I contribute to the project?

You can contribute to this project by attending one or all of the community dialogues that focus on key themes for revitalizing the area; Economic Development, History + Culture, and Food + Fitness. Successfully balancing these factors can create a vibrant neighborhood. Each of the public dialogue sessions will be led by local leaders and provide an opportunity to learn more about the topic areas and contribute to the evolving conversation about the neighborhood. (See the schedule to the right for details on each of the dialogues.)

## DEPOT SQUARE COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

All events are at Gateway City Arts / 92 Race Street

**October 17 / 5:30 – 7:00 PM**

### Economic Development Dialogue

Join us for a discussion on diversifying economic opportunities in the area

With Carlos Gonzalez (Massachusetts Latino Chamber of Commerce) and Tim Fisk (ADP/ Alliance to Develop Power)

**October 20 / 5:30 – 7:00 PM**

### History + Culture Dialogue

Reflect on how History + Culture are essential to Depot Square’s future

With Maria Cartagena (Five Colleges Inc. CBL Partnership Coordinator) and Charlie Lotspeich (Holyoke Heritage State Park)

**October 24 / 5:30 – 7:00 PM**

### Food + Fitness Dialogue

Celebrate “Food Day” and learn how to advocate for a healthier community

With Laura Porter (Holyoke Food and Fitness Policy Council) and Ana Jaramillo (Holyoke Food and Fitness Policy Council)

Sponsored by:  
University of Massachusetts Amherst / Architecture + Design Program  
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