

Greenville Transit Authority Public Statement Regarding Maintenance Facility Project

(Greenville, SC) Greenville Transit Authority is very disappointed with the coverage pertaining to individual objections to its new maintenance facility. While GTA respects the views of all individuals, an individual's disagreement with a proposed land use does not make that land use unlawful or even undesirable. We live in a society where anyone can make allegations, but there is a big difference between allegations and facts. GTA would like to call the public's attention to the following facts as it relates to GTA's new maintenance facility. These facts are all confirmed in publicly available records.

Number one, Mr. Paul Guy appeared in Greenville County Circuit Court on January 17, 2023 and asked the Court to permanently enjoin GTA's construction of its new maintenance facility. The Court denied Mr. Guy's motion by way of an Order dated January 17, 2023.

Number two, Mr. Guy did not include any evidence in support of his allegations in his Court filings. In contrast, GTA provided a sworn affidavit as to the facts surrounding the project in response to Mr. Guy's filing.

Number three, various governmental entities (both local and federal) have approved GTA's actions with respect to the new maintenance facility. To summarize just a few:

- Greenville County donated the land that will serve as the home of GTA's new maintenance facility. The County donated the land after conducting three readings and a public hearing of the proposed ordinance. These minutes are publicly available. Greenville County Council adopted the ordinance to donate the county-owned land to GTA with a 12-0 vote.
- The Greenville County Board of Zoning Appeals approved GTA's plans for the facility on the property by a 7-0 vote.
- Greenville County issued a permit to GTA for the work that is presently taking place on the site.
- The Federal Transit Administration approved the design and construction.

Number four, an independent third-party public transportation consultant, Main Street Connections, LLC performed a Title VI Transit Equity Analysis Study as it relates to the proposed construction. In the study, Main Street Connections determined that no disparate impacts were associated with GTA's proposed construction on the property.

Number five, in public statements, Mr. Guy has insinuated that he represents an organization by the name of "New Washington Heights Neighborhood Association." Such an organization does not exist according to the South Carolina Secretary of State's records. There is an entity called "New Washington Heights Community Association." It is not clear how Mr. Guy fits into the Association, but he does not appear to hold any elected position within the Association. Furthermore, it does not appear as though Mr. Guy even lives in New Washington Heights.

Number six, the parcel in question was never a part of the 2013 Community Plan facilitated by Greenville County, and the parcel was never "promised" to anyone. GTA went the extra mile to

include everything that members of the neighborhood asked for (safe walking trails and fields for children to use) and more (a green building, a modern community room, indoor and outdoor public spaces, and a playground). Previous statements will lead you to believe that the parcel is located within the neighborhood. The parcel is not located in the neighborhood. In fact, the project will create a significant healthy, landscaped and needed buffer between several homes on the edge of the New Washington Heights neighborhood and the industrial areas on the other side of the project. The project has already made neighborhood improvements by diverting and cleaning the flow of industrial stormwater from the entering the neighborhood.

GTA has made every effort to keep those living in the surrounding area and the public informed about this project and involved in the process. GTA has included all stakeholders every step of the way. In addition, and with no obligation to do so, GTA has maintained a website that is easy to find and accessible. The site has all of the pertinent information regarding the project. Records have been available since this project began three years ago, and GTA has constantly updated the site since that time. Anyone who desires to know the facts should visit RideGreenlink.com/BusGarage, and should do so before repeating unfounded and salacious accusations. We would respectfully request that any future reporting on this matter include a link to the site, so the public may see how the project unfolded and how truly beneficial it will be to the community.

GTA is proud of this project and proud of the work it has done to involve everyone in the process. Anyone would be hard pressed to find a major public project in Upstate South Carolina that has been as open and as transparent as this project. GTA and Greenlink staff should be celebrated in their efforts and transparency, rather than pilloried and denounced.

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