



Background:

West Windsor Forward's overarching goal is to transform the Princeton Junction Station, a vital asset for West Windsor Township and surrounding communities, into a welcoming, aesthetically appealing, and culturally reflective community hub that serves all users.

Guiding Principles:

- Foster Inclusivity and Respect: Cultivate a station environment that is welcoming and respectful of all users.
- Enhance Community Connectivity: Transform the station into a vibrant community space, facilitating greater interaction and engagement among residents.
- Improve User Experience: Enhance rider and commuter satisfaction through a more pleasant and functional station environment.
- Collaborate Strategically: Partner with local organizations to pool resources, leverage expertise, and ensure broad community involvement in initiatives.
- Adhere to Partner Guidelines: Operate with full respect for the goals and policies of NJ TRANSIT and the West Windsor Parking Authority, including their no commercial solicitation policies.
- Plan for Future Growth: Strategically prepare the station for increased use and community integration upon the completion of the WW Squared property (Link and Avalon homes).
- Preserve and Enhance Asset Value: Improve the aesthetic appeal of the station, preserving and enhancing a valuable community asset that many residents rely on.

This document outlines initial proposals from West Windsor Forward, aimed at establishing a collaborative initiative with NJ TRANSIT, the West Windsor Parking Authority, and various local community groups. Our shared goal is to significantly enhance the overall station experience at the Princeton Junction Train Station in West Windsor.



Project Initiatives (in order of proposed timeline):

Ongoing Beautification & Maintenance (Adopt-a-Station Scope):

- Organize regular litter pick-ups. ([details](#))
- Plant flowers and greenery. ([details](#))
- Display seasonal decorations.

Station Enhancements (Requiring Additional Approvals):

- Install decorative lighting at the station. ([details](#))
- Enable plastic film (Trex recycling) collection at the station. ([details](#))
- Install murals at the station. ([details](#))
- Support the pressure washing of station surfaces. ([details](#))

Community Engagement & Vibrancy:

- Bring in community partners, such as local dog shelters and music groups, to host events like dog adoption fairs and music benefit concerts, making the station a vibrant community space and providing entertainment to commuters. ([details](#))

Long-Term Service Improvement:

- Advocate for and facilitate improvements to station and waiting area services.

Scope of NJ Transit's Adopt-a-Station Program:

From NJTransit.com

- Station clean-up three to four times a year.
- Provide light landscaping and maintenance.
- Plant/care for flowers, small trees, and shrubs.
- Introduce local performing arts groups to NJ TRANSIT's Music in Motion program.



Expanded Project Proposals:

Litter Pick-Ups:

Maintaining the Princeton Junction Station as a clean and litter-free facility is crucial for rider satisfaction and is a core component of the Adopt-a-Station program. Although current litter levels are limited, West Windsor Forward is committed to ensuring ongoing cleanliness through regular collection efforts. We propose conducting **quarterly litter pickups** at the station.

To maximize our impact and efficiency, we aim to collaborate with the **Friends of West Windsor Open Space (FOWWOS)** for these events. FOWWOS' partnership would be invaluable due to:

- **Established Experience:** Their proven experience in organizing and conducting litter pickups in other areas of the township.
- **Expanded Volunteer Network:** Combining our volunteer bases would create a more impactful and robust effort.
- **Clean Streets Program Participation:** FOWWOS facilitates West Windsor Township's "Clean Streets" program. A partnership with FOWWOS would allow them to receive micro-grants through our litter collection efforts.
- **Mutual Promotion:** Cross-promotional efforts would mutually benefit both West Windsor Forward and FOWWOS, enhancing community awareness for both organizations.
- As a 501(c)3 organization, FOWWOS can distribute community service hours to participating volunteers, compensating volunteers for their time.

Timeline: Pickups can begin as early as this summer.



Flower Planting:

As a key objective of the Adopt-a-Station program, West Windsor Forward is committed to enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the Princeton Junction Station through dedicated floral efforts. Recognizing Central New Jersey's rich natural landscapes and native plant species, we plan to reflect this local beauty at the train station. Our plan involves planting perennial flowers that will consistently bloom, providing sustained color and natural beauty to the station environment.

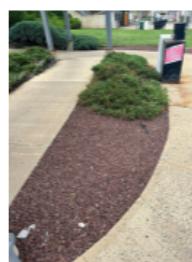
We intend to actively seek donations of these flowers, along with necessary supplies such as fertilizer and mulch, from local businesses, flower shops, and community members. In return for their generous contributions, we will offer prominent recognition on the West Windsor Forward website and our social media platforms.

The proposed locations for flower planting are detailed below. We have specifically prioritized areas on the southbound side, which currently has less greenery, has more direct sunlight hours, and planned locations in anticipation of increased foot traffic from the future WW Squared property.

Timeline: Planting can begin as early as this summer.



Flowers/plants in current gravel area
(Southbound)



Flowers/plants in current gravel area
(Southbound)



Flowers/plants in grass area
(Northbound)



Flowers/plants in planter on
platform stairwell (Southbound)



Flowers/plants in planter left of main
tunnel
(Southbound)



Flowers/plants on sides of walkway
(Southbound)



Decorative lighting:

The installation of decorative **large bulb string lighting** offers a cost-effective solution to significantly enhance the station's aesthetics, improve passenger visibility during evening hours, and cultivate a more welcoming ambiance. Both solar-powered and outlet-powered options are available and can be combined with timers for automatic activation at dusk. We propose installing these lights on the awnings covering the stairwells on the southbound side of the station, a high-traffic area that all New York-bound commuters utilize during evening hours. Additionally, we propose **solar-powered pathway lighting** on the pictured walkway, which would be particularly beneficial for residents of the upcoming WW Squared property.



Southbound stairwell covering



Outlet location
Southbound stairwell covering



Solar powered lights on sides of walkway
(Southbound)

Trex Film Recycling:

West Windsor Forward proposes implementing a plastic film recycling initiative at the station through Trex's NexTrex recycling challenge. This program offers commuters a direct and positive way to impact our environment by recycling materials not typically accepted in standard recycling, such as newspaper sleeves, plastic bags, and bread bags. The provided collection bin can be placed in the Northbound waiting room. A West Windsor Forward volunteer will manage the bin, emptying it as needed and transporting the collected plastic film to Kohl's or Wegmans stores for processing and further transport. For further program details, please refer to: [NexTrex Recycling Challenge](#).

Timeline: We can participate in the program beginning this summer.

**Mural Installation:**

West Windsor Forward seeks to collaborate with the West Windsor Arts Council to install transformative murals at the Princeton Junction Train Station. This project aims to significantly enhance the station's aesthetics, strengthen community identity, and visually represent the diverse cultures of the communities it serves.

Princeton Junction Station is a critical transportation hub, serving over 4,000 NJ TRANSIT passengers on an average weekday and more than 123,000 Amtrak passengers annually. Given this substantial daily foot traffic, murals offer a powerful opportunity to:

- **Elevate Rider Experience:** Create an inspiring and welcoming environment for the thousands of daily commuters and travelers.
- **Improve Station Appearance:** Visually transform station surfaces, making them appear cleaner and more vibrant.
- **Enhance Wayfinding & Information:** Strategically designed murals can subtly improve signage and navigation within the station space.
- **Showcase Local Talent:** West Windsor is home to many talented artists. We aim to feature their creativity through locally-painted, volunteer-driven murals.
- **Foster Community Reflection:** We are committed to ensuring these murals are reflective of the entire community. To achieve this, local organizations like the Historical Society of West Windsor, the West Windsor Township Government, and other neighboring townships and stakeholders will be actively involved in the design and planning process.

This initiative aligns well with **NJ TRANSIT's established "Transit Arts Program,"** which demonstrates a clear precedent for integrating artwork into transit facilities across New Jersey. The program's philosophy emphasizes that "art is essential to the overall transportation experience", directly aligning with our goals to enhance public spaces and improve the riding experience. There is also demonstrated recent interest within the West Windsor community and from the West Windsor Arts Council for installing such art installations.

Resource Acquisition & Collaboration:

This project will leverage a combination of donated materials, in-kind contributions, and collaborative



partnerships:

- **Materials:** We plan to secure donations for essential supplies such as paint and protective coatings from local businesses.
- **Expertise & Resources:** The West Windsor Arts Council's partnership would be invaluable, providing critical resources like scaffolding, ladders, brushes, volunteer coordination, and professional design guidance.
- **Funding:** West Windsor Forward will contribute and raise funds to cover any remaining costs.

Proposed Timeline:

- **Phase 1: Authorization & Partnership**
 - Engage the West Windsor Arts Council.
 - Obtain necessary authorizations from NJ TRANSIT Real Estate and the West Windsor Parking Authority.
- **Phase 2: Design & Artist Engagement**
 - Work collaboratively with the West Windsor Arts Council, other local groups, and community stakeholders to develop a cohesive, inclusive, and reflective design concept.
 - Identify and engage volunteer artists from the local community.
- **Phase 3: Material Acquisition & Approvals**
 - Create a detailed list of required materials and a precise cost estimate.
 - Actively request material donations from local businesses and community members.
 - Obtain any additional approvals required from the Township of West Windsor.
- **Phase 4: Installation**
 - Execute the mural installation, led by volunteer artists and coordinated with all partners.

We aim for the completion of this impactful project by early 2026, depending on approval and resource acquisition timelines.



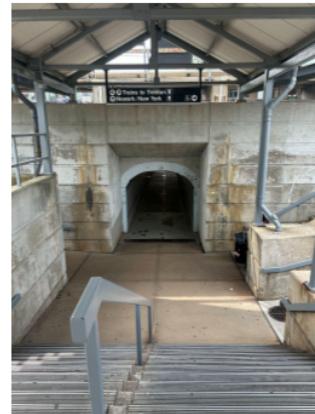
Our proposed mural locations:



Northbound on wooden paneling.
Large "Princeton Junction" or "West Windsor" painted sign/mural



Northbound Main Tunnel Entrance
- High traffic, all commuters pass through at least once daily



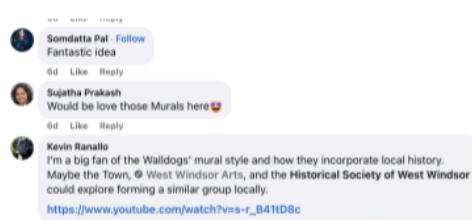
Southbound Main Tunnel Entrance
- High traffic, all commuters pass through at least once daily

Recent

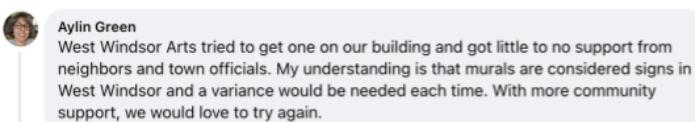
community interest:



Facebook post sharing interest for murals



Some Facebook comments in support of the community murals



Facebook comment from the Executive Director of the West Windsor Arts Council in support of community murals

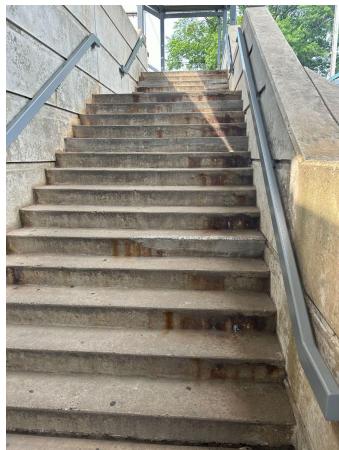


NJ Transit has financially supported art installations across its network, although none at the Princeton Junction Station

**Pressure Wash Station Surfaces:**

West Windsor Forward proposes a collaborative effort with NJ TRANSIT and the West Windsor Parking Authority (WWPA) to address the pressure washing and remediation of rust and other staining on station surfaces. This initiative is crucial for two primary reasons: it will significantly enhance the station's aesthetic appeal, and, importantly, it will help prevent the long-term deterioration of valuable station infrastructure.

Due to the complexity of extensive or specialized rust removal that may require advanced techniques or equipment, West Windsor Forward respectfully requests that NJ TRANSIT and the West Windsor Parking Authority utilize their crews or procure professional services to remediate these issues, leveraging their expertise and resources for optimal results and safety.

**Development of a community space for entertainment and charity programs:**

The Princeton Junction Train Station is a critical transportation hub, serving over 4,000 NJ TRANSIT passengers on an average weekday and more than 123,000 Amtrak passengers annually. West Windsor and its surrounding communities are incredibly diverse and home to a wealth of local talent and dedicated community organizations.

West Windsor Forward proposes transforming the underutilized grass area on the southbound side of the station (pictured below) into a vibrant community space. This area is particularly high-traffic, as all



passengers commuting home from New York must pass through it. We envision this space hosting occasional, engaging programs designed to provide relief and entertainment to commuters, breaking from the mundane routine.

Our goal is to facilitate partnerships with local groups for activities such as:

- **Live Performances:** Inviting local music groups and student performers to hold concerts, showcasing community talent. As a Studio Captain for the Performathon, Parth has direct experience with organizing successful benefit concerts, which raised \$23,000 in 2024 and \$17,500 so far in 2025 for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. While certain elements of this may fall within the broader spirit of the Adopt-a-Station program, approval for charity concerts may be needed.
- **Community Awareness & Charity Events:** Allowing groups like local dog shelters to establish a temporary presence, for a few hours one evening, (mirroring successful initiatives recently seen at the farmers market), offering unique opportunities such as dog adoption fairs.

These initiatives would simultaneously elevate the commuter experience by providing enjoyment and a sense of community while also significantly boosting local organizations by raising awareness, generating funds, or facilitating crucial activities like animal rescue. We believe converting this space into a dynamic community hub will enhance the station for everyone.

Timeline: These events can begin this summer.





West Windsor Forward is incredibly enthusiastic about the opportunity to partner with NJ TRANSIT and the West Windsor Parking Authority. We hope to build a community coalition for these transformative projects at Princeton Junction Station. We firmly believe these initiatives will significantly enhance the station, foster a stronger sense of community, and vastly improve the daily experience for thousands of commuters.

We are eager to discuss this initial proposal further and work collaboratively to bring these visions to fruition. Please let us know how we can best proceed to achieve these shared goals.

Please email us with any questions at: contact@westwindsorforward.org