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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Grand opening for Brattleboro’s train station set

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2 Ceremony will celebrate the completion of the first level-
3 boarding station in the state, which will serve almost 17,000
4 passengers per yer

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

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6 After more than five decades of passengers being
7 relegated to the old baggage area of the former Union Station,
8 now the home of the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Amtrak
9 will soon have a new standalone station right across the tracks.

10 Amtrak officials and local, regional, and federal leaders
11 will preside over a ceremonial grand opening of the new station
12 on Depot Street on Wednesday, June 24, starting at 11 a.m.

13 Vermont's first level-boarding station will offer a 345-
14 foot-long concrete platform so passengers will not have to use
15 stairs to enter or exit the platform. Its waiting room has 36 fixed
16 seats, drinking fountains, and a new accessible single-occupant
17 restroom adjacent to the waiting room.

18 The new facility complies with the accessibility standards
19 enforced by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

20 Outside, a covered waiting area will offer benches for
21 eight people and an area for standing, along with generous roof
22 eaves and benches. The parking lot improvements around the
23 new building include two ADA-compliant parking spaces and a
24 new bike shelter.

25 Construction started in the spring of 2024, with the
26 estimated \$7.4 million cost funded by the Biden administration's
27 federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

28 Brattleboro, which is served by Amtrak's Vermonter, is
29 Vermont's third-busiest stop for Amtrak, serving approximately
30 17,000 passengers per year.

31 **Words Trail exhibit finds a** 32 **home at new station**

33 Also part of the new station is the Brooks Memorial
34 Library's 14-foot, interactive ceramic Brattleboro Words Trail
35 Exhibit, which links sites connected to the region's rich history of
36 writing, printing, and publishing to audio stories via a free mobile
37 app.

38 The mural, designed by Brattleboro artist Cynthia
39 Houghton, will permanently occupy the platform-facing outside
40 wall of the new station, an addition that David Handera, Amtrak
41 vice president of stations, facilities, properties, and accessibility
42 called "a great fit for us" in a news release.

43 The exhibit will be maintained by Friends of Brooks
44 Memorial Library and Brattleboro’s Sunrise Rotary Club using a
45 long-term maintenance fund secured by the Words Project.

46 Launching of the exhibit marks the project’s transition
47 from Brooks Memorial Library, shepherded into its new home by
48 former Library Director Starr LaTronica.

49 “The collaboration with the Brattleboro Words Project
50 and all the partners supporting this exhibit are part of the library’s
51 mission to inspire, inform, and empower our diverse community
52 while celebrating Brattleboro’s unique literary history,” said
53 Margaret Atkinson, chair of Brooks Memorial Library Trustees.

54 The Brattleboro Words Trail features stories about key
55 literary figures from or who chose to settle in Brattleboro and its
56 close environs, including Rudyard Kipling, Robert Frost, and Lucy
57 Terry Prince (the nation’s first African American poet, from
58 Guilford), among others.

59 The exhibit is a culmination of almost 10 years of work
60 to connect community members around shared storytelling.

61 At the opening ceremony, the exhibit will be unveiled by
62 Houghton with comments by Brattleboro Words Project Director
63 Lissa Weinmann, the exhibit coordinator.

64 Attendees will be able to interact with Houghton, other
65 leaders, and actors depicting characters featured on the
66 Brattleboro Words Trail, as well as get their copies of the
67 Brattleboro Words Trail maps, newly designed by Christopher
68 Grotke of MuseArts.

69 At around 6 p.m., actors led by the [Tiny Theater](#) will
70 perform “From Revolution to Reflection: Live on the Brattleboro
71 Words Trail.” For more information, visit brattleborowords.org.

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