

Art Commission Review – Submittal Form

(Applicant complete below section)

Project Name: SEPTA T5 - TROLLEY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

Project Address: Program Wide **On Public Property?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

Total Budget: TBC **Utilizing City Funds?** ☒ Yes (specify amount): Match ☐ No

Project Type (check all that apply):

☒ Building – New Construction or Addition

☒ Encroachment in/over ROW

☐ Building – Renovation or Repair

☐ Signage (Reconsideration)

☐ Plaza/Park/Playground

☐ Streetery (Reconsideration)

☒ Public Art

☐ Other: _____

Project Team:

Agency/Org.: SEPTA Design Lead (firm): HNTB

Other: _____

Primary Contact for Project Communications:

Name: Olivia Hopkins

Affiliation: SEPTA Program Manager

Email: [REDACTED]

(Art Commission staff complete below section)

Art Commission Meeting Date of Project Review: 9/9/26

Level of Review:

☒ Concept Review ☐ Final Review If Final, specify date of preceding Concept Review: _____

☐ Administrative Review (for projects with minimal visual impact on public realm)

Staff Notes (Optional):

August 26, 2026

HNTB Project #
84721

To: Philadelphia Art Commission
1515 Arch Street
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: SEPTA T5 Trolley Modernization Program

Dear Members of the Art Commission,

The HNTB design team has been working in close collaboration with SEPTA and local stakeholders to design the T5 Trolley Modernization Program located along the previously known Route 36 Trolley, which runs from 13th Street to 80th Street Eastwick Loop.

The existing condition of the current trolley service presents several operational and customer experience challenges that impact accessibility, reliability, and safety. Passengers must navigate steps to board vehicles, creating barriers for individuals with mobility limitations and slowing the boarding process. Station amenities vary significantly across the system, resulting in a low-level consistency of rider experience. Service reliability is further affected by frequent and uneven stops, as well as delays that reduce travel time predictability. These issues contribute to a fragmented journey for passengers, who encounter differing conditions and levels of service throughout the corridor. Additionally, interactions between transit vehicles and surrounding traffic create safety concerns, increasing the potential for conflicts and reducing overall system efficiency. Together, these existing conditions highlight the need for improvements that enhance accessibility, consistency, reliability, and safety for all users.

The modernization effort includes introducing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant, low-floor vehicles to improve accessibility for riders of all abilities and the creation of new trolley stations equipped with passenger amenities.

Key features of the SEPTA's Trolley Modernization Program are:

- New accessible stations with platforms for easy, accessible boarding to SEPTA's new low-floor vehicles. This will improve accessibility for people with disabilities, seniors and families with strollers.
- New station amenities at each trolley station, including shelters for protection from weather conditions in all seasons, seating, improved lighting and wayfinding signage.
- Stop rebalancing, with wider spacing between stations for faster service, reduced waiting times and greater reliability.
- Real-time information and visual and audible service announcements at stations, aiding passengers with visual and hearing impairments.

- Modernized infrastructure that includes intersection realignments and optimized traffic signals for safer intersections, more reliable service and reduced delays.

SEPTA and HNTB Design Team met informally with the Art Commission on July 21st and 29th, 2026, to outline the program-wide strategy for station design components. The Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC) also participated in the July 21st meeting."

We are seeking to present the T5 Trolley Modernization Project to the Art Commission in person on September 9th, 2026 (second Wednesday of the month).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the project at (215) 433-4585 or via email at astott@hntb.com. If you could please include Olivia Hopkins ohopkins@septa.org (SEPTA T5 Program Manager), Logan Axelson laxelson@septa.org (SEPTA T5 Deputy Program Director), and Karl Schreiter kschreiter@HNTB.com (HNTB Project Manager) on any official correspondence that would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Stott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Stott, AIA, NCARB, PMP
HNTB Corporation



SEPTA Trolley Modernization:

Philadelphia Art Commission

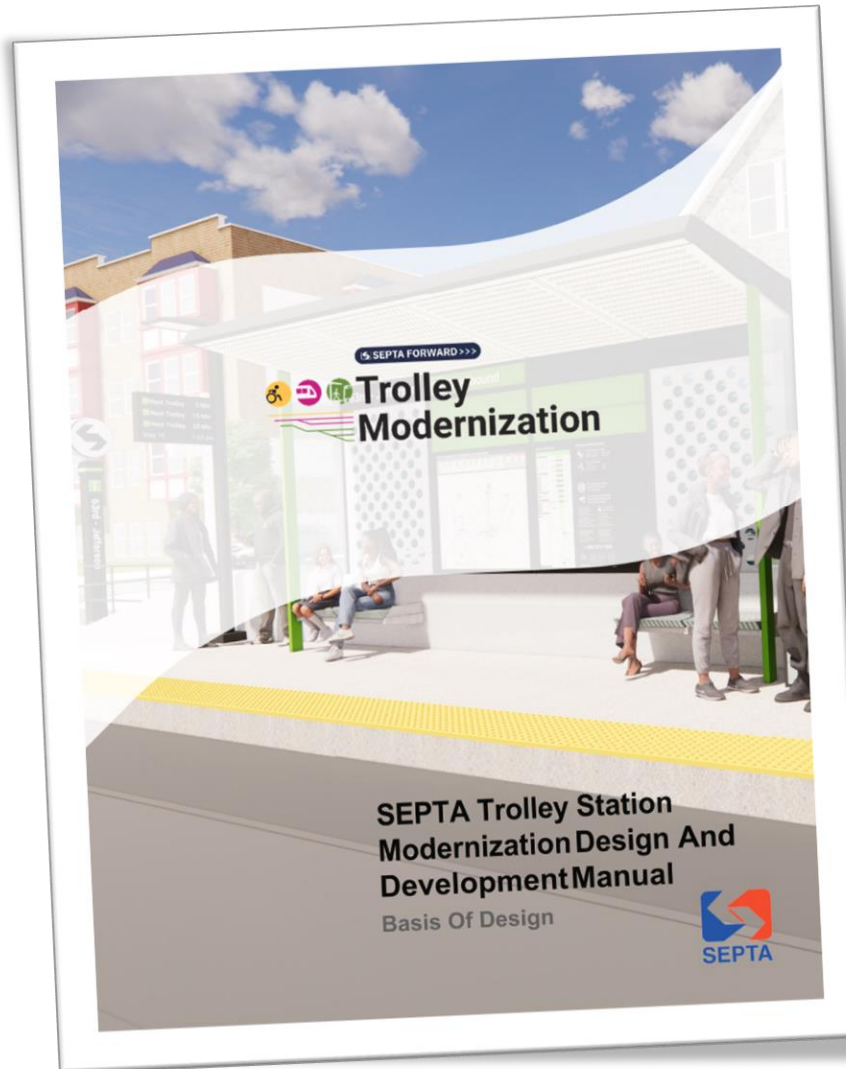
September 9, 2026



Trolley Modernization Basis of Design

Applying today for:

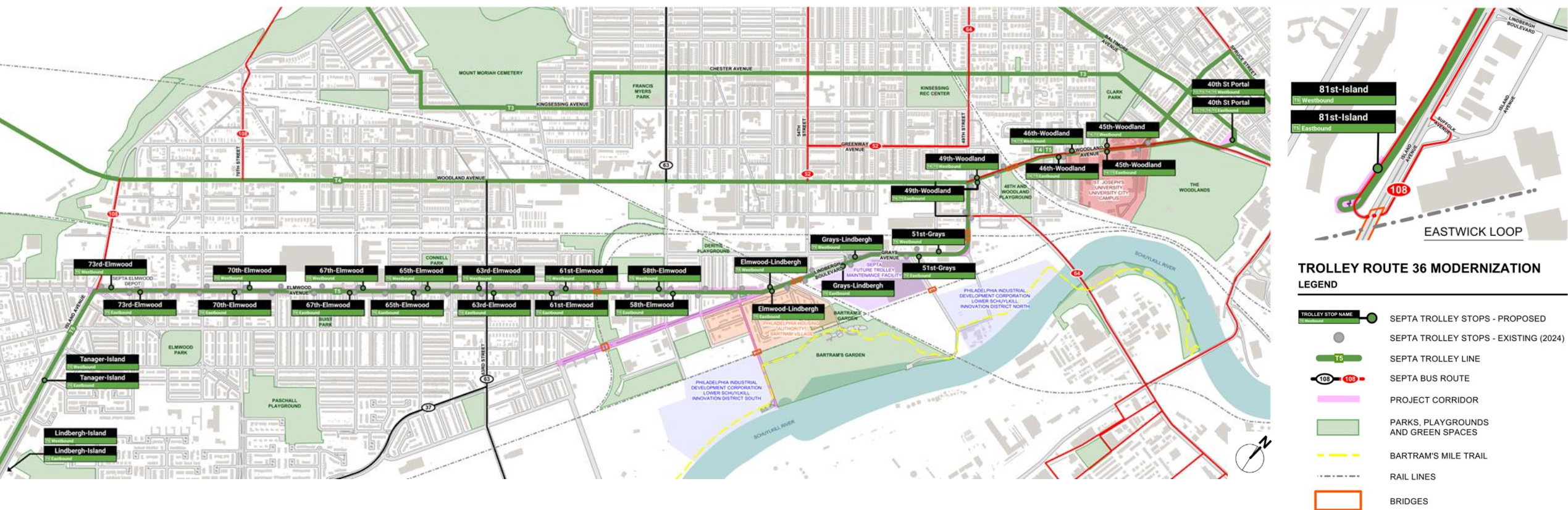
- Programmatic approval for typical station design
- T5 Corridor, first route



Program Delivery

- T5 Design underway, completion early 2027
- T5 Construction 2028 – 2030
- Future routes phased to have one route in construction at a time

Corridor Overview



T5 Platform Lengths

Eastbound Stations	Length	Width
40th St Portal	80'	18'
45th-Woodland	80'	10'
46th-Woodland	70'	10'
49th-Woodland	80'	9'
51st-Grays	80'	10'
Grays-Lindbergh	80'	10'
Elmwood-Lindbergh	80'	9'
58th-Elmwood	80'	10'
61st-Elmwood	80'	10'
63rd-Elmwood	80'	10'
65th-Elmwood	70'	10'
67th-Elmwood	80'	10'
70th-Elmwood	80'	10'
73rd-Elmwood	80'	10'
81st-Island	80'	9'

Westbound Stations	Length	Width
40th St Portal	80'	18'
45th-Woodland	80'	10'
46th-Woodland	80'	10'
49th-Woodland	100'	9'
51st-Grays	80'	10'
Grays-Lindbergh	80'	10'
Elmwood-Lindbergh	80'	10'
58th-Elmwood	80'	10'
61st-Elmwood	80'	10'
63rd-Elmwood	80'	10'
65th-Elmwood	80'	10'
67th-Elmwood	80'	10'
70th-Elmwood	80'	10'
73rd-Elmwood	80'	10'
81st-Island	80'	9'

Fleet + Infrastructure Integration



Low-floor
vehicles



Platform-vehicle
interface



Integrated accessibility
features



Tunnel + surface
compatibility

Community Driven Design



SAFETY



SUSTAINABILITY



NEIGHBORHOOD
CHARACTER



USABILITY +
MAINTENANCE



Community Engagement

Online Survey

- 1,581 unique response

In-Person Events

- 601 engagements

Virtual Transit Talks

- 78 participants

Key Takeaways

- Shelter: shape, color, light



Community Engagement

In-Person Events

- 2,585 engagements
- Over 18 months

Key Takeaways

- Engagement featured station design, seating, real-time information, and safety features.
- Near universally positive response to station amenities in in-person outreach.



What Riders Experience



Before

Today

- Steps to board vehicle
- Delay-prone service
- Inconsistent station amenities
- Fragmented experience
- Frequent, uneven stops
- Unsafe traffic interactions

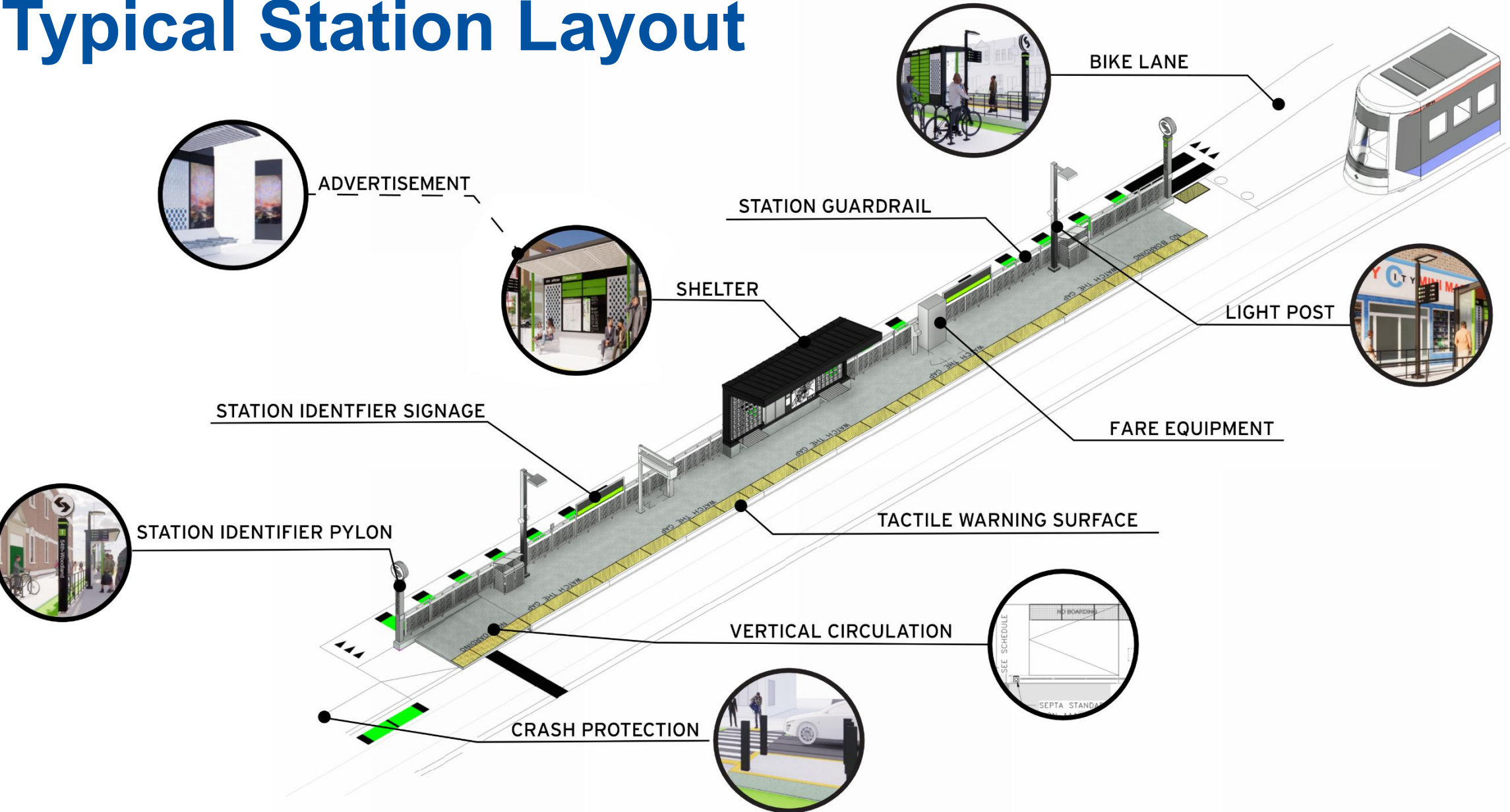


After

Future

- Near-level boarding
- Improved reliability
- Standardized, accessible stations
- Integrated, intuitive system
- Optimized stop spacing
- Safe waiting and boarding environment

Typical Station Layout



65th - Elmwood



65th - Elmwood



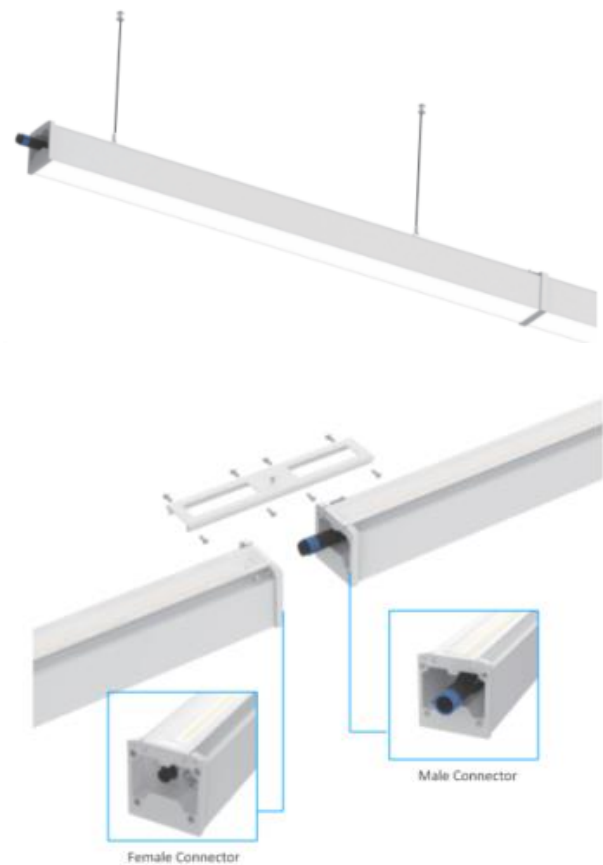
65th - Elmwood



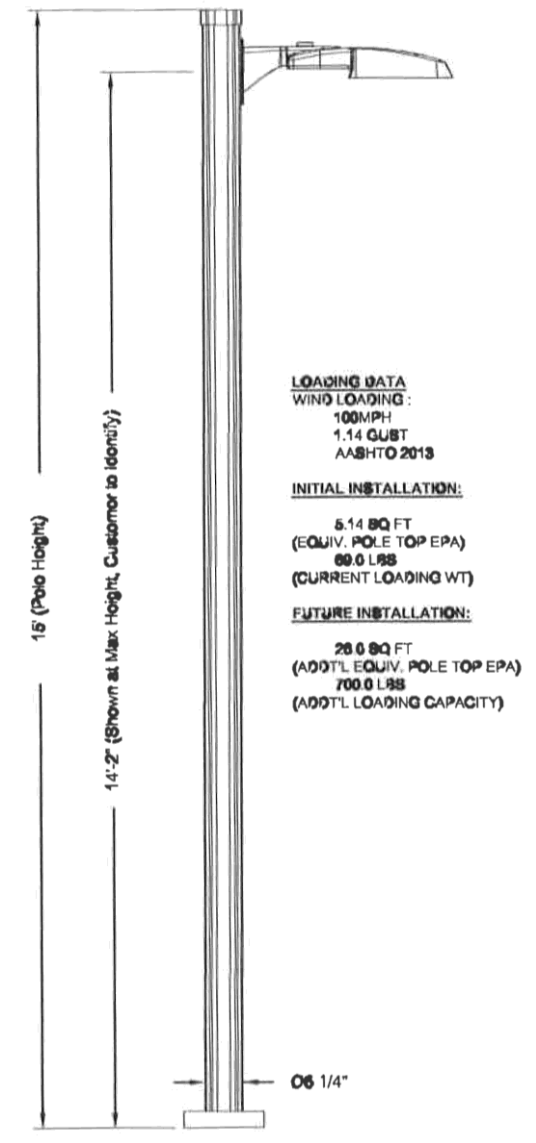
65th - Elmwood



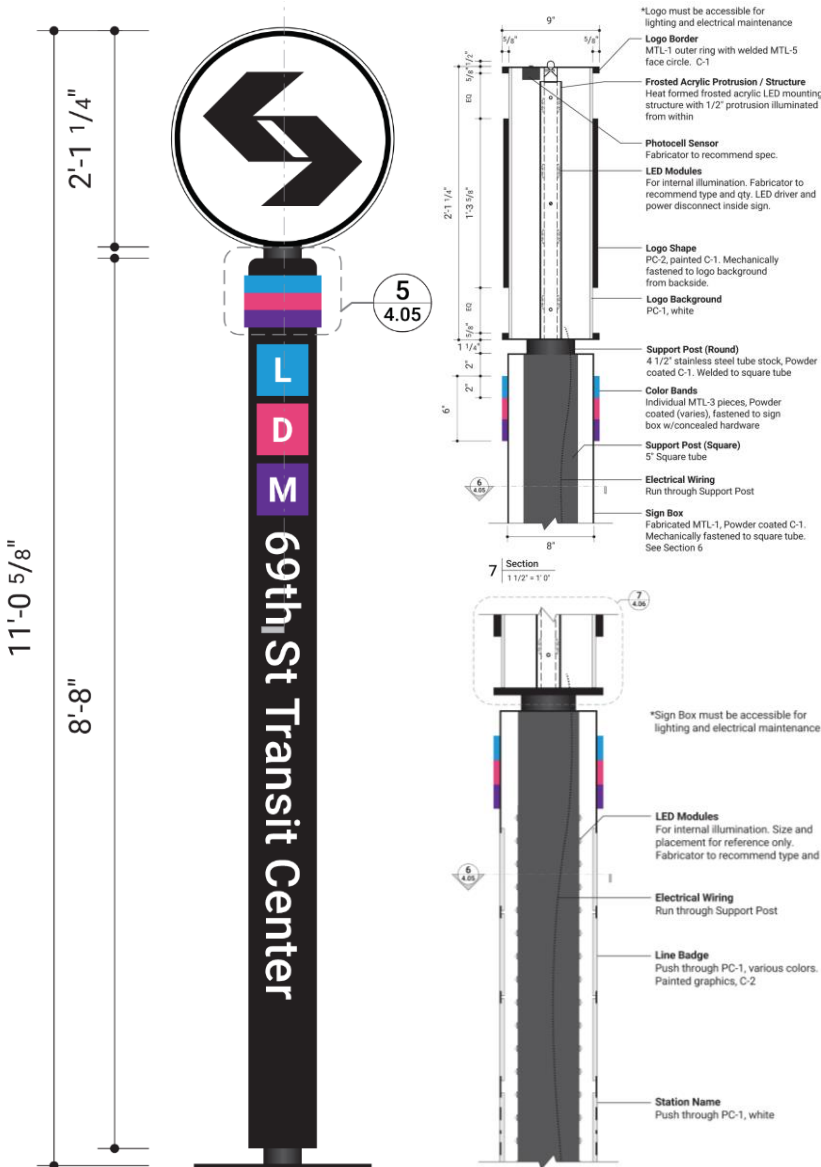
Lighting



SHELTER LIGHT COVE



LIGHT POLE



STATION ID SIGNAGE

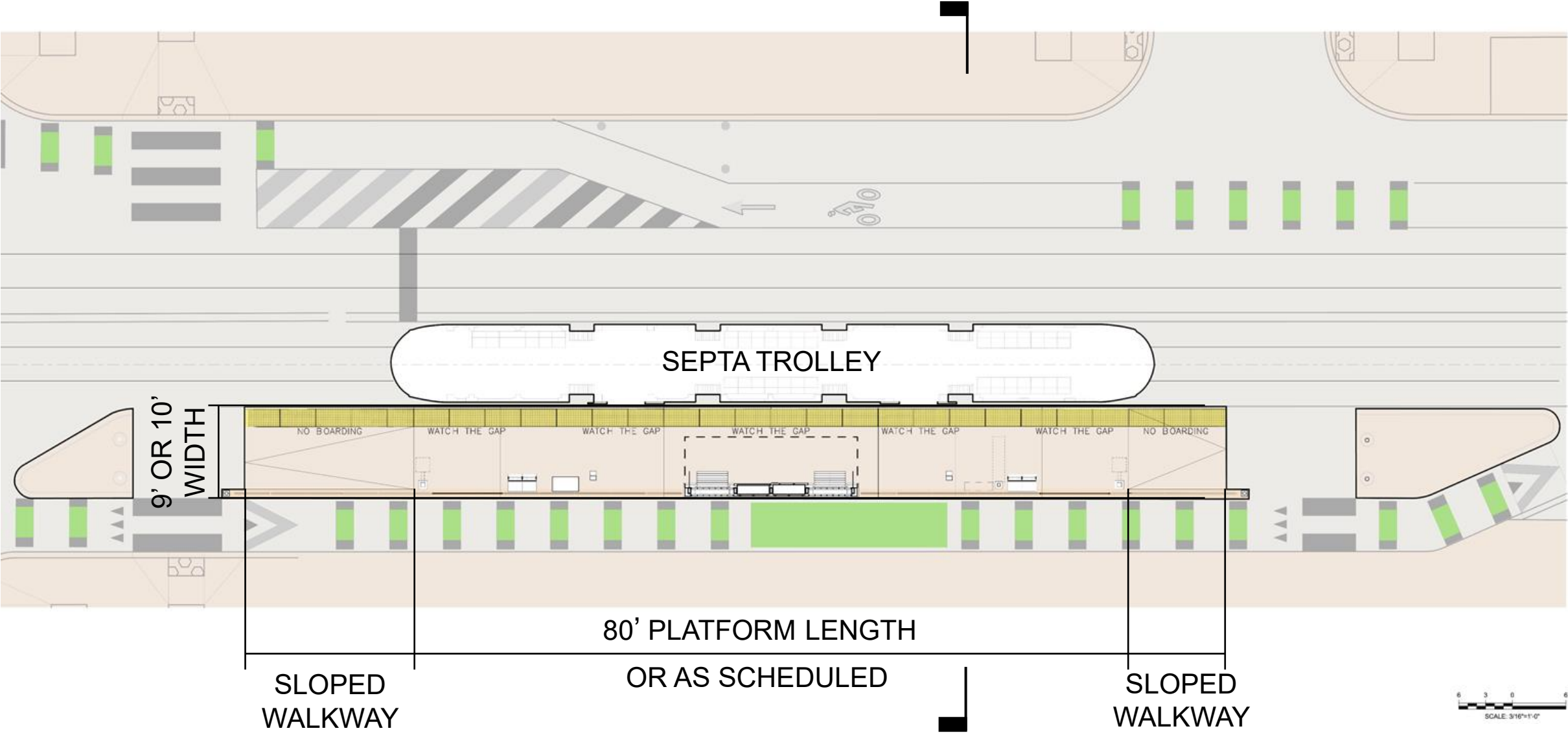
Connell Park, 65th - Elmwood



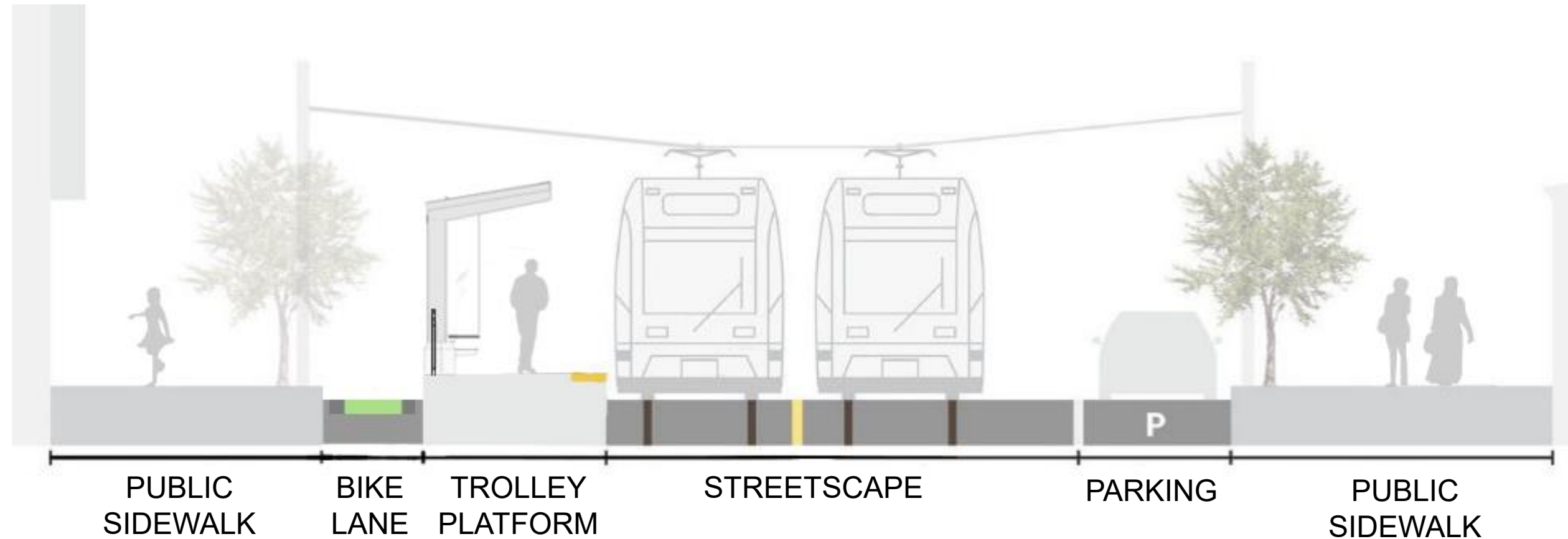
Connell Park, 65th - Elmwood



Typical Station Plan



Typical Station Section

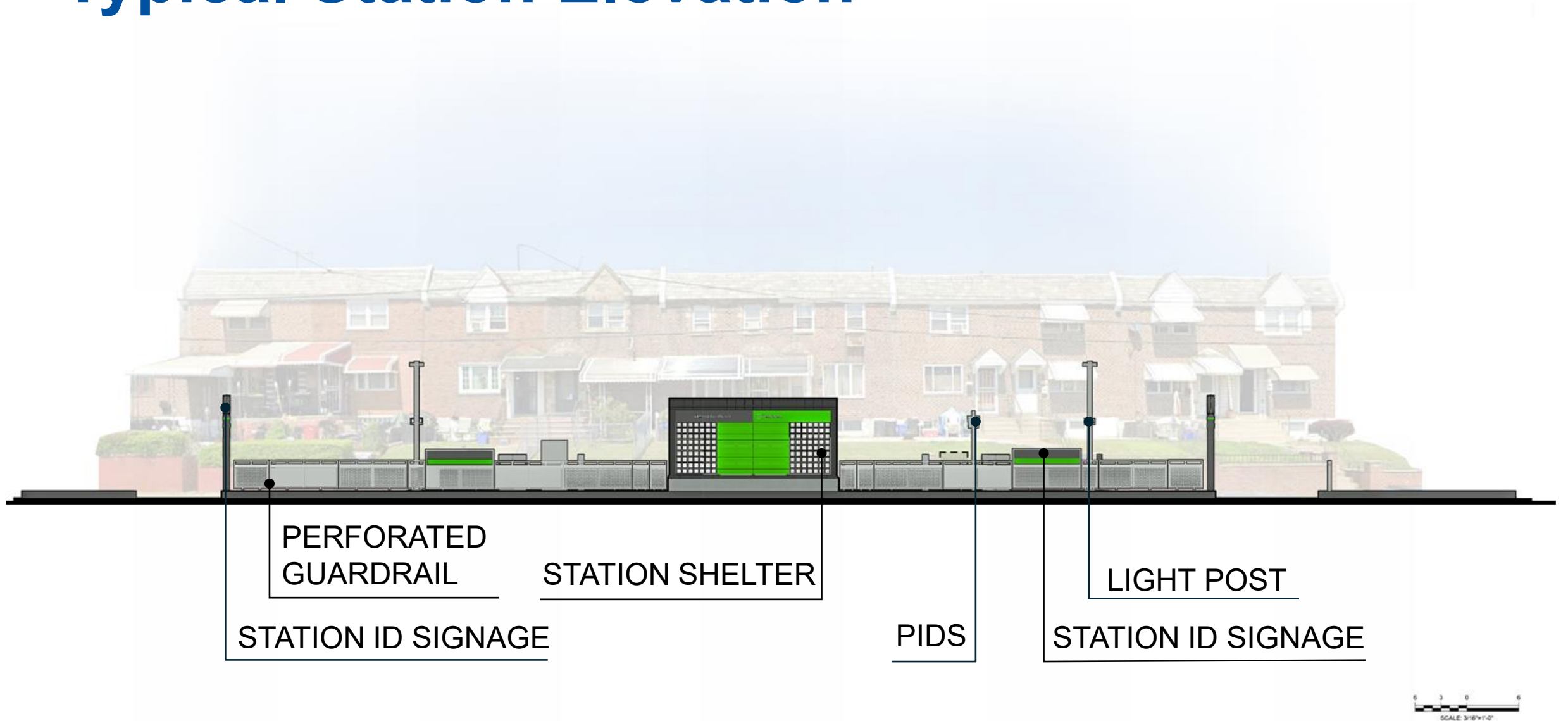


Typical Station Elevation

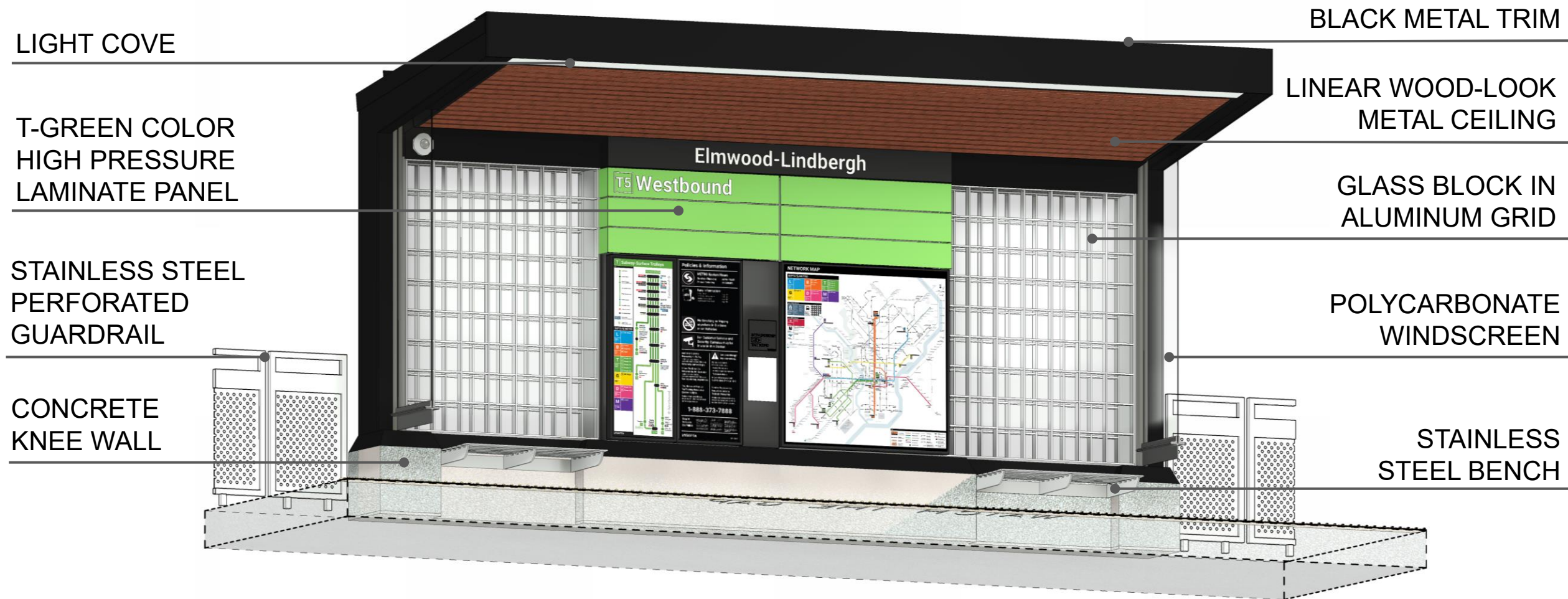


6 3 0 6
SCALE: 3/16"=1'-0"

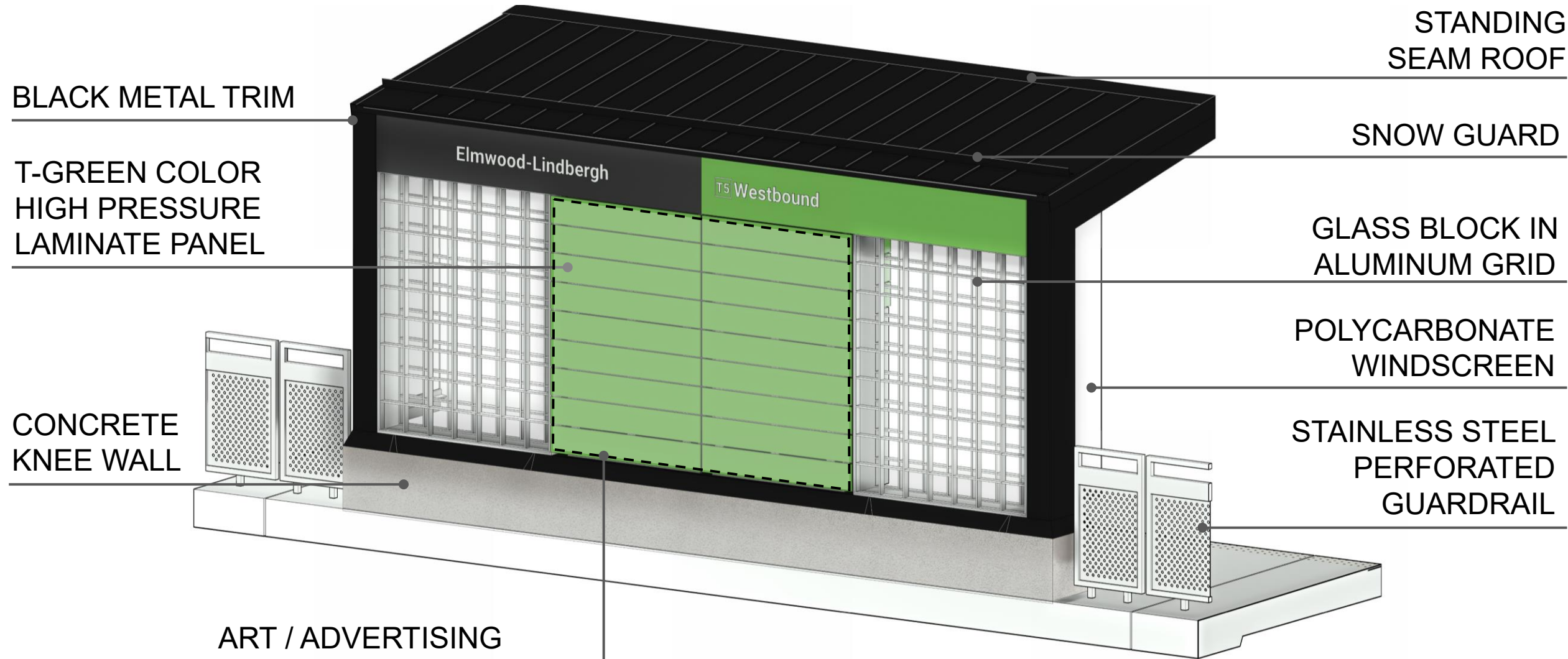
Typical Station Elevation



Typical Station Shelter



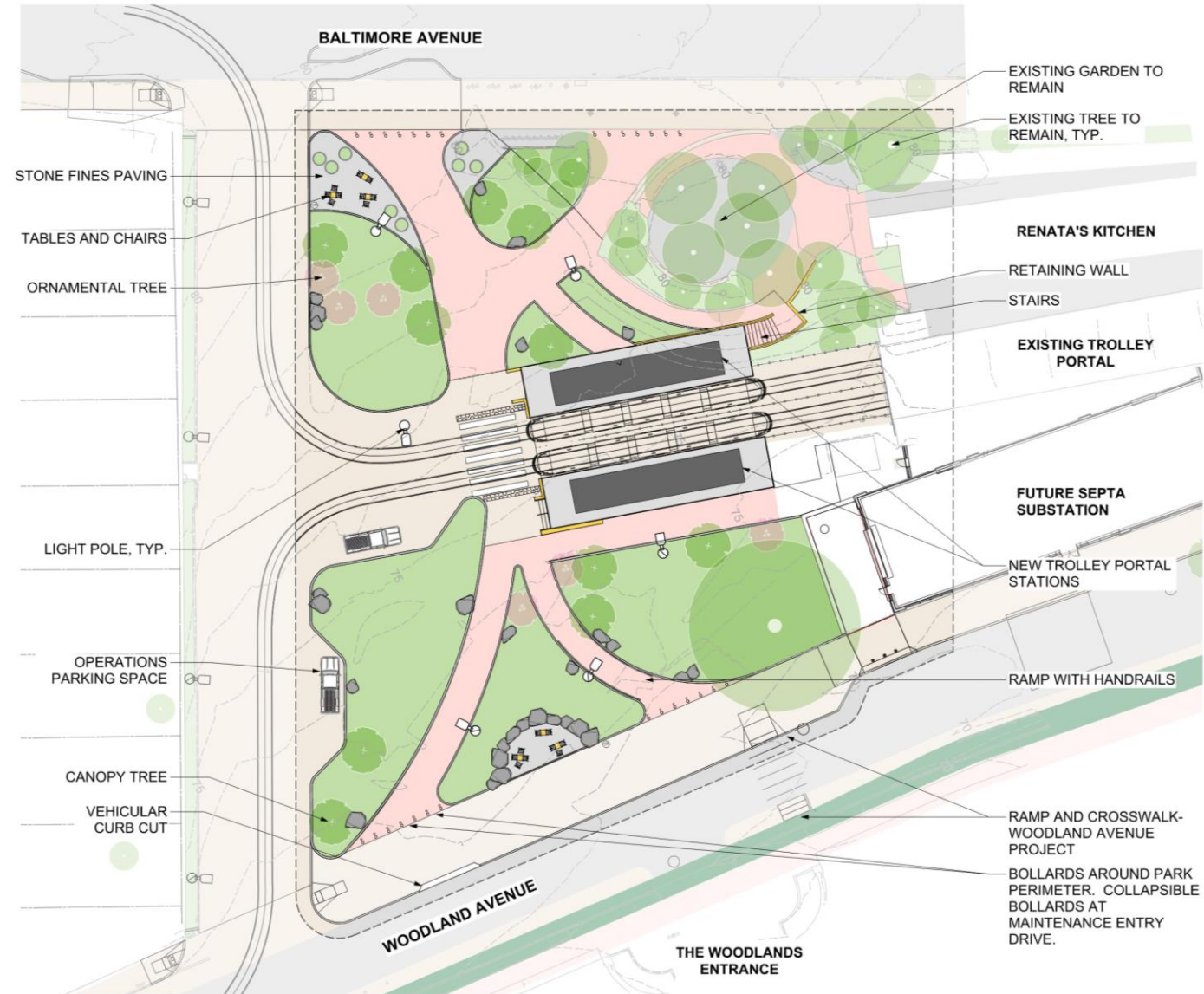
Typical Station Shelter



40th Street Portal Station



40th Street Portal – Overall Site Plan



Note: Individual elements may be subject to change in response to track standards.

40th Street Portal – Landscape Planting

Trees



Yellowwood
Cladrastis kentuckea



Thornless Common Honeylocust
Gleditsia tricanthos var. inermis



Round-Lobed Sweetgum
Liquidambar styraciflua 'Rotundiloba'



Afterburner Blackgum
Nyssa sylvatica 'Afterburner'



Exclamation London Plane
Platanus x acerifolia 'Morton Circle'



Swamp White Oak
Quercus bicolor



Quercus phellos
Willow Oak



American Basswood
Tilia americana



Shawnee Brave Bald Cypress
Taxodium distichum 'Shawnee Brave'



Princeton Elm
Ulmus americana 'Princeton'



Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry
Amelanchier grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance'



Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis



Appalachian Snow Eastern Dogwood
Cornus florida 'Appalachian Snow'



Henry Hicks Sweet Bay Magnolia
Magnolia virginiana 'Henry Hicks'

40th Street Portal – Landscape Planting

Shrubs



Mount Airy Fothergilla
Fothergilla x intermedia 'Mount Airy'



Nana Dwarf Yaupon Holly
Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'



Inkberry Holly
Ilex glabra 'Shamrock'



Henry's Garnet Sweetspire
Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet'



Gro-Low Fragrant Sumac
Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'

Ornamental Grasses



Blue Gamma
Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'



Pennsylvania Sedge
Carex pensylvanica



Northern Sea Oats
Chasmanthium latifolium



Purple Love Grass
Eragrostis spectabilis



Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium

Perennials & Bulbs



Moonbeam Thread-leaf Coreopsis
Coreopsis verticillata 'Moon Beam'



Rocky Top Coneflower
Echinacea tennesseensis 'Rocky Top'



Amazing Grace Creeping Phlox
Phlox subulate 'Amazing Grace'

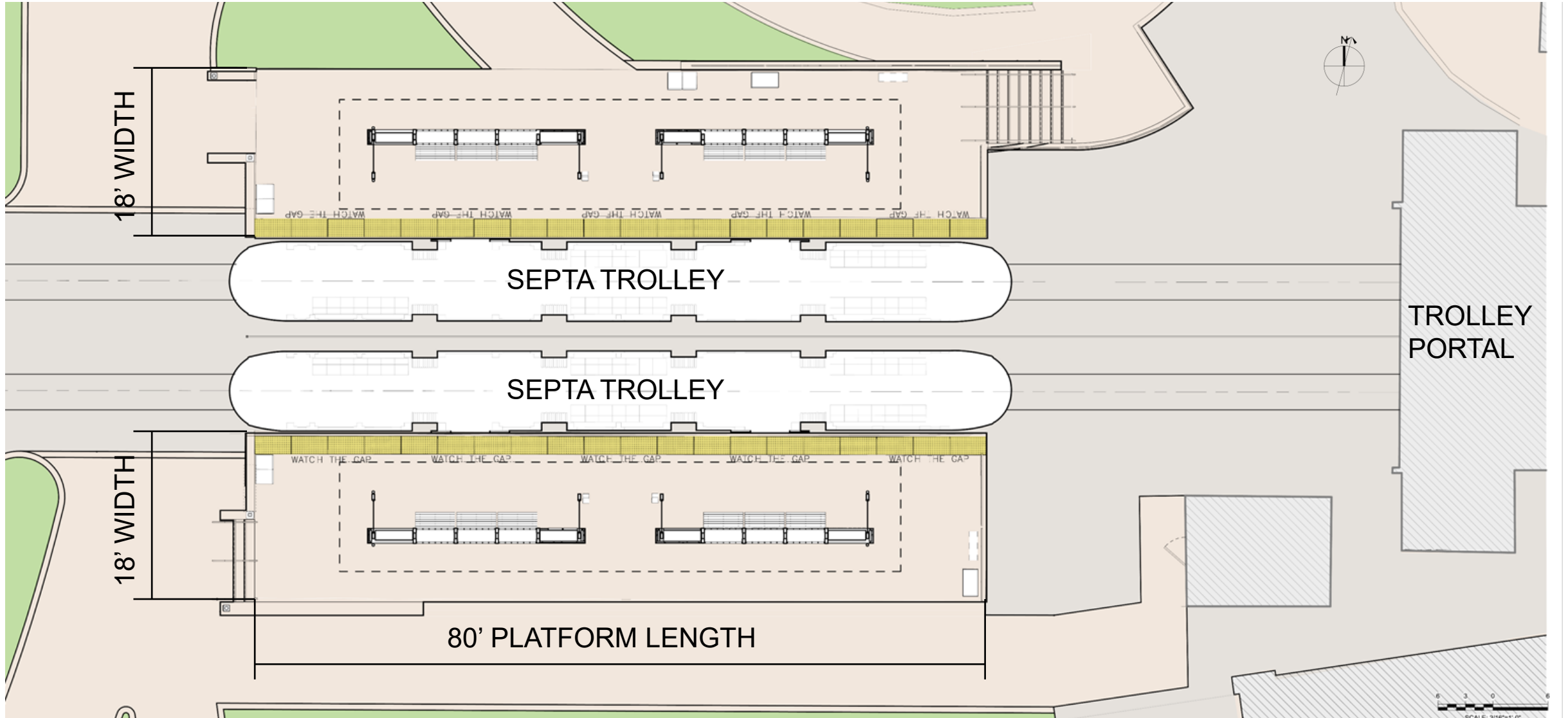


Purple Sensation Ornamental Onion
Allium hollandicum 'Purple Sensation'

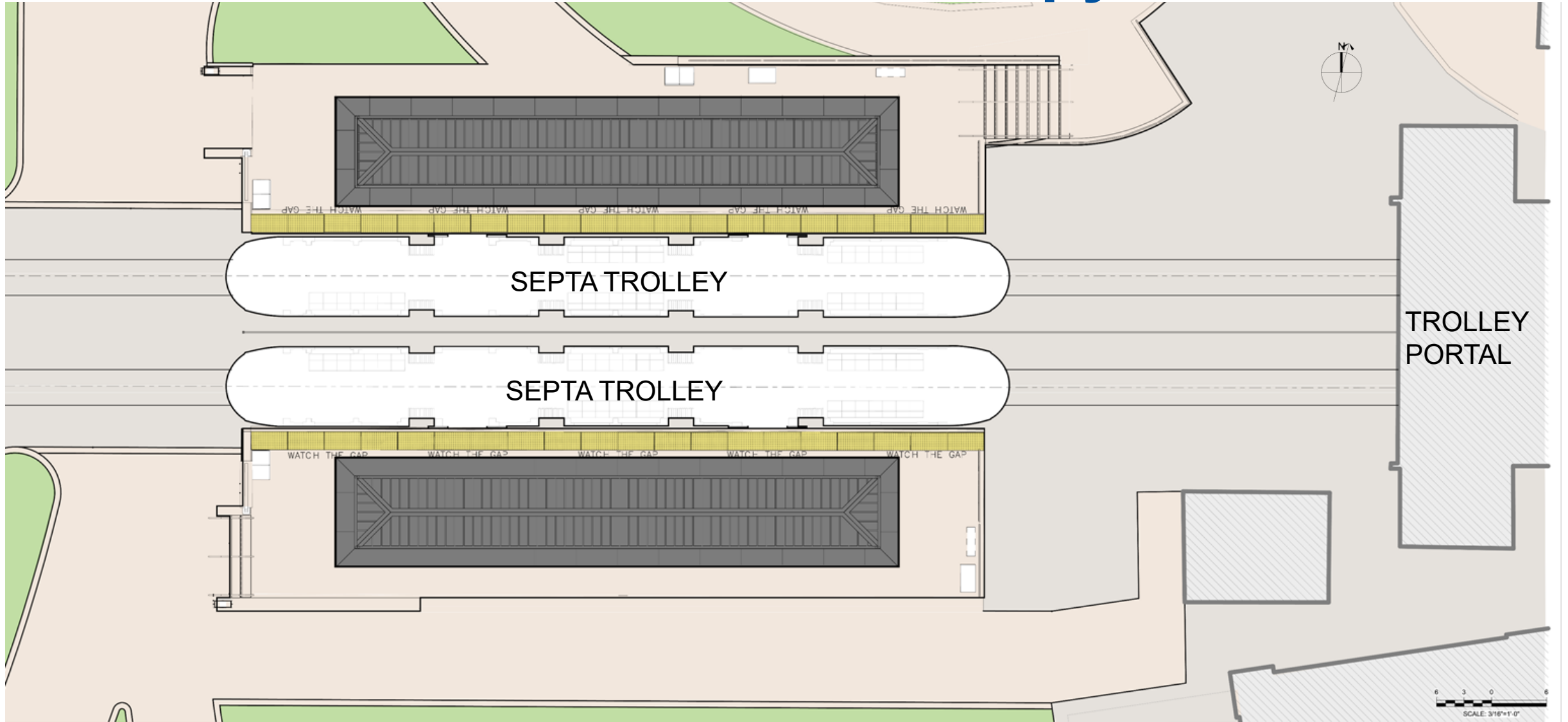


Mount Everest Snow Drops
Galanthus elwesii 'Mount Everest'

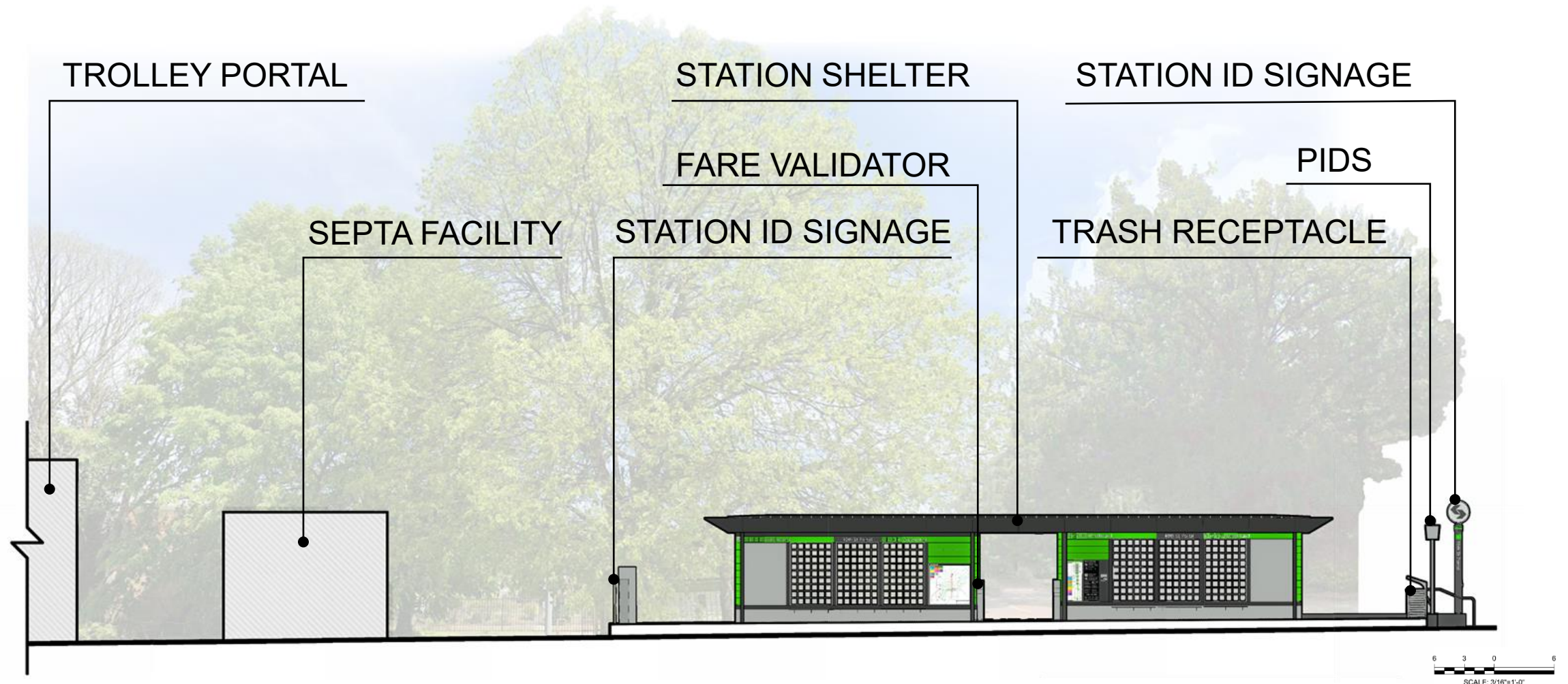
40th Street Portal Station Floor Plan



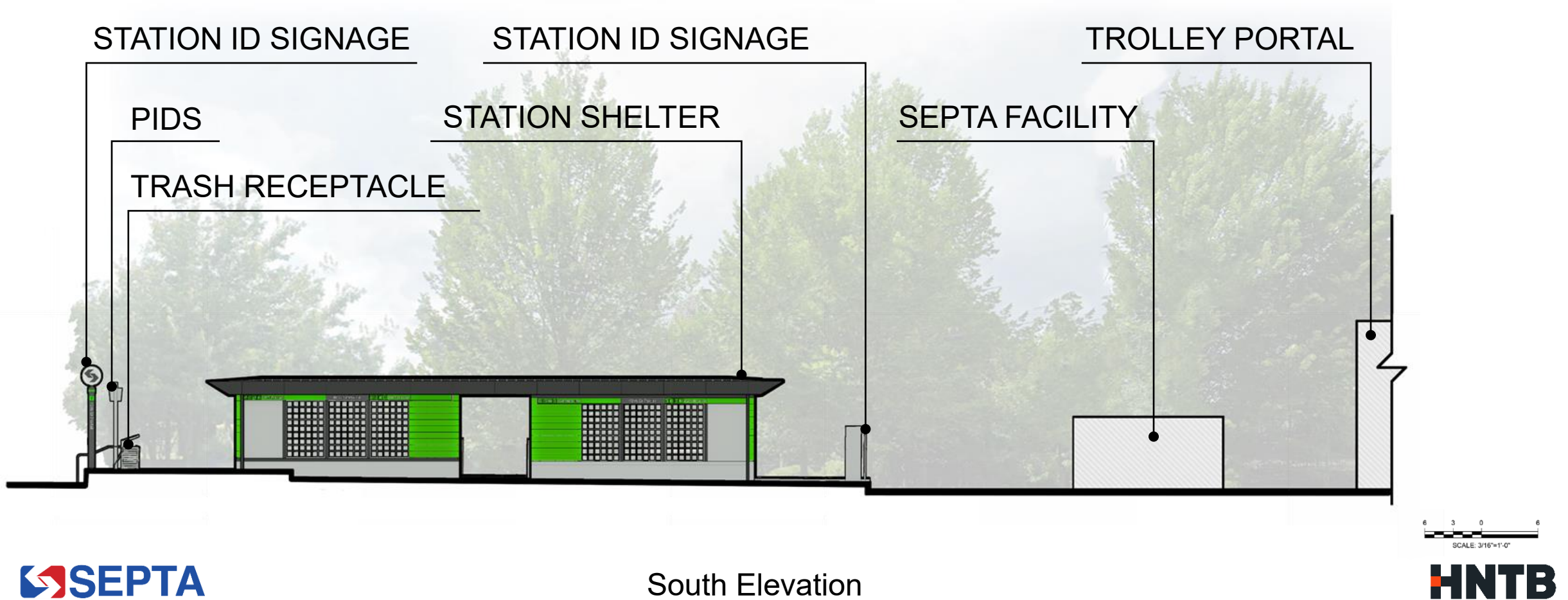
40th Street Portal Station Canopy Plan



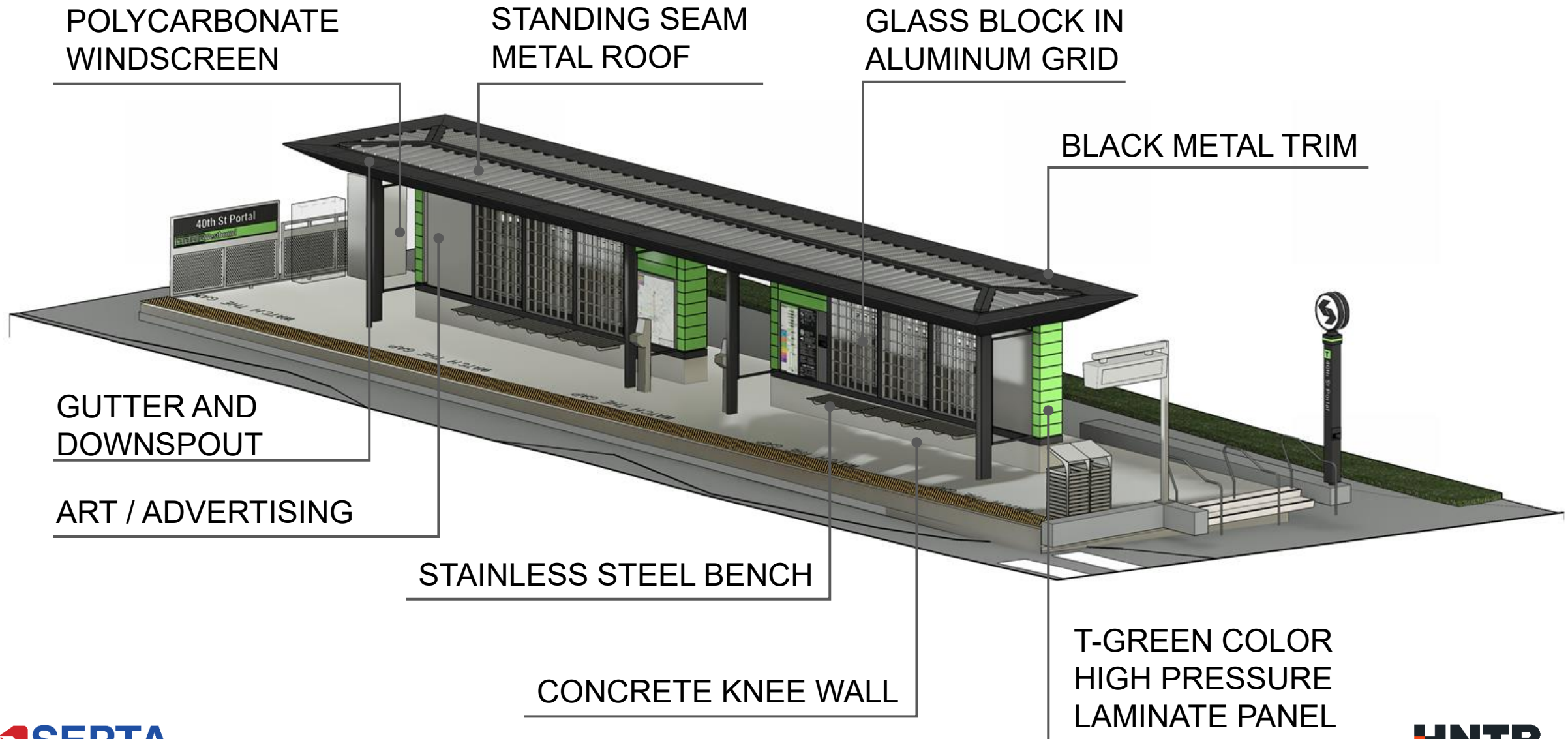
40th Street Portal Station



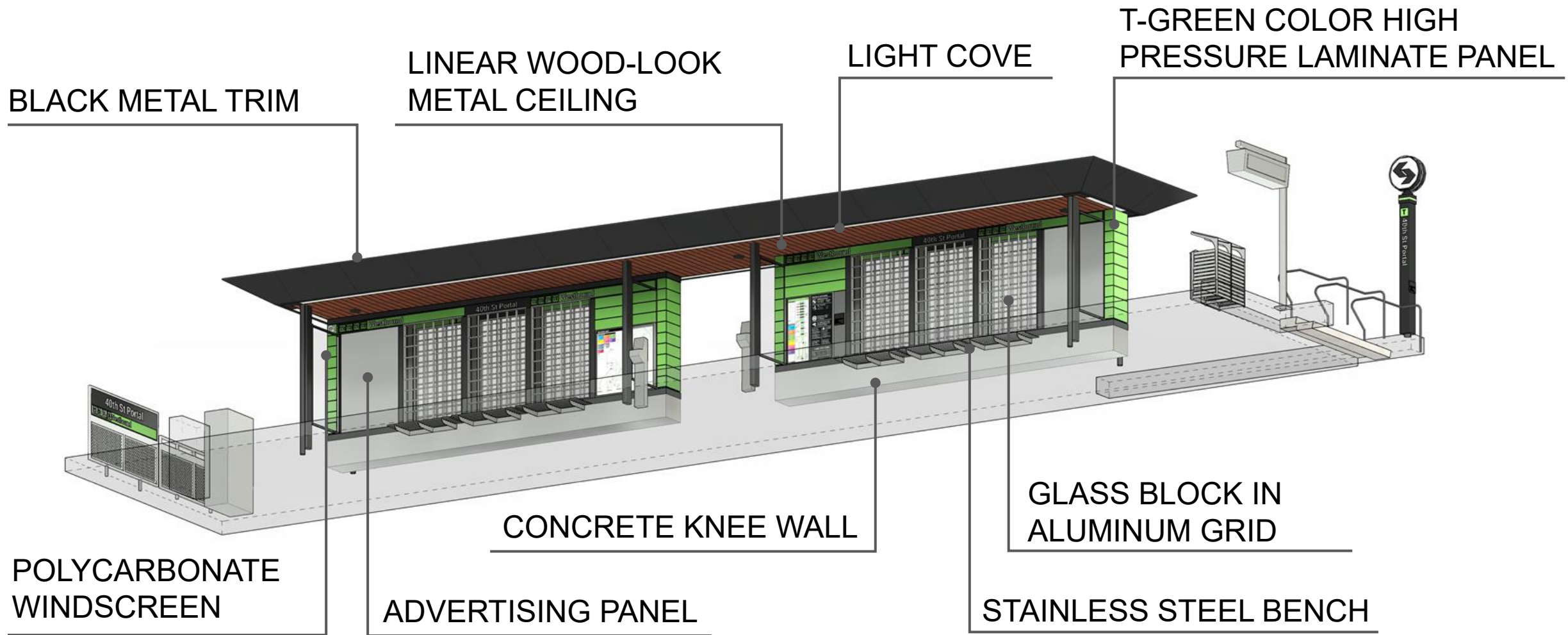
40th Street Portal Station



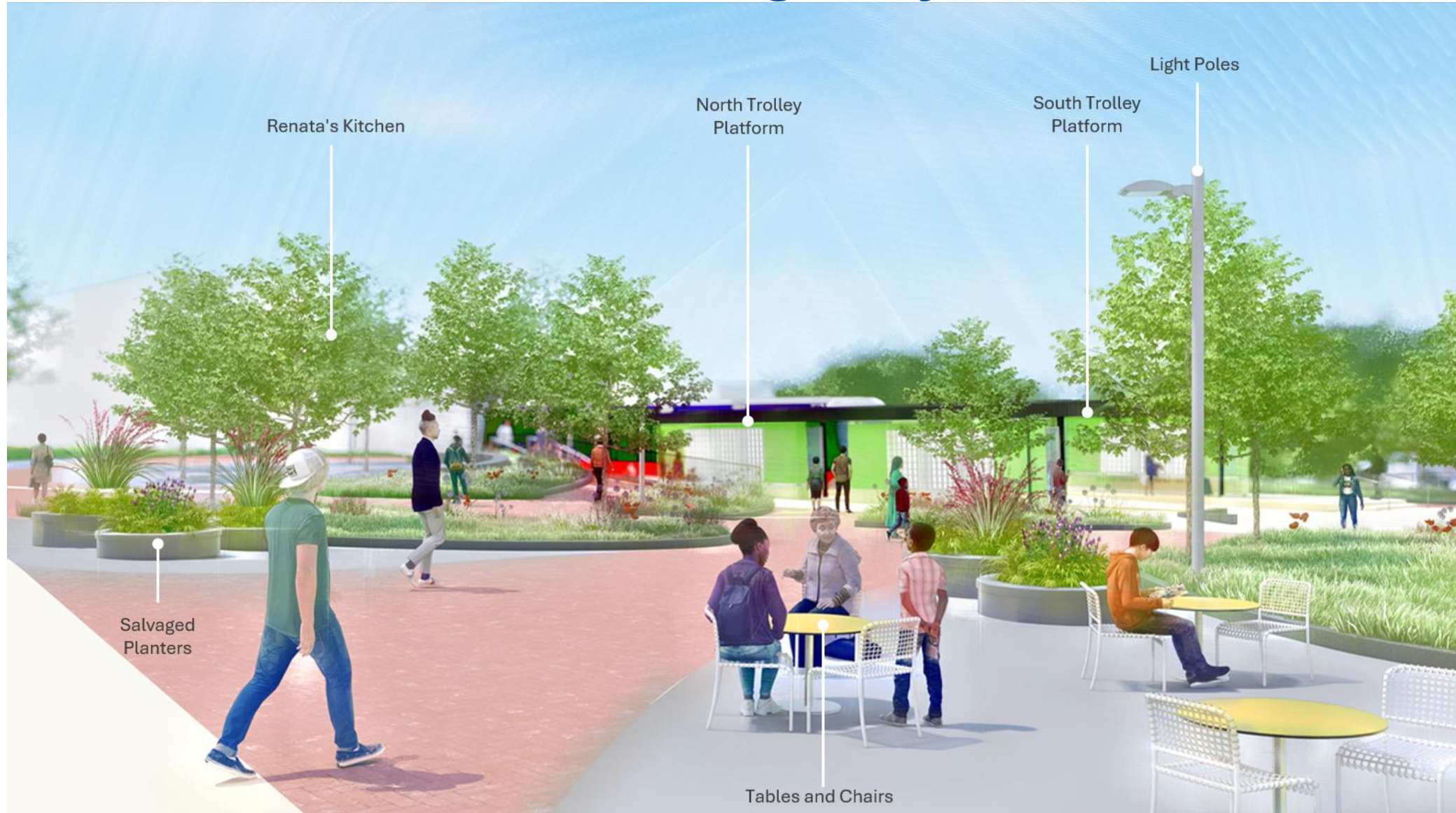
40th Street Portal Station Isometric View



40th Street Portal Station Isometric View



40th Street Portal – Site Rendering - Daytime



40th Street Portal – Site Rendering - Nighttime



40th Street Portal – Site Rendering - Daytime



40th Street Portal – Site Rendering - Nighttime



