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City Utilities mum on transfer station location

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News-Leader*

City Utilities has zeroed in on a new site for its downtown bus transfer station. But until the deal is sealed, the utility won't say where.

"We're still negotiating with them," said CU Transit Manager Carol Cruise. "I love the site. It's within walking distance to downtown."

Cruise revealed progress on finding a new home for the transfer station during Monday's Regional Transportation Forum in Springfield.

Many CU patrons currently use the transfer facility at Patton Avenue and McDaniel Street to switch from one bus route to another.

But Cruise said bus drivers are finding it more difficult to move in and out of the facility because of center city construction and traffic.

CU plans to sell the old facility and has budgeted \$4.5 million to build a new one somewhere near downtown.

The bulk of the cost -- \$3.12 million -- comes from federal grants.

Cruise said she and other CU managers have looked at more than 30 possible transfer facility sites in the past two years.

"They all fell through for one reason or another," she said. "Some were not large enough. Some cost too much."

CU General Manager John Twitty said he hoped to complete negotiations on the new site within a month.

"There's a lot of FTA (Federal Transit Authority) hoops to jump through before we can make an offer," Twitty said.

"If we can't do it within a month we'll move on to some place else."
