



## Information Presentation

Commission Meeting: July 13, 2017

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**PROJECT****Washington Union Station  
Expansion Project**

50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC

**NCPC FILE NUMBER**

7746

**NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER**

1.11(38.00)44281

**SUBMITTED BY**

Federal Railroad Administration

**PRESENTER**

David Valenstein

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The Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC), in coordination with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), has proposed expanding and modernizing the multimodal transportation facilities at Washington Union Station. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) of the Department of Transportation is currently undertaking and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the proposed project. NCPC is a cooperating agency as part of the project to satisfy the Commission's own NEPA compliance requirements because of its approval over projects on federal land.

Washington Union Station is located at the confluence of Massachusetts, Louisiana and Delaware Avenues, NE, just north of the US Capitol and National Mall. Designed by Daniel Burnham, a member of the McMillan Commission, Union Station was completed in 1908. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969, and is the central hub for rail transportation in Washington DC. Union Station is described in the McMillan Plan as "the grand gateway to the capital" the style of which "should be equally as dignified as that of the public buildings themselves." The station continues to represent and evoke the social, planning, and architectural history of the McMillan Plan, and serves as an important transportation hub for the city and region today.

The project purpose includes: supporting current and future growth in rail service; complying with accessibility and emergency egress requirements; facilitating intermodal travel; provide a positive customer experience; enhancing integration with surrounding uses; sustaining the station's economic viability; and supporting the continued preservation and use of the historic station building. The project is needed to improve rail capacity, reliability, safety, efficiency, accessibility, and security, for both current and future long-term railroad operations at this historic station. Several preliminary concepts are currently under development that will be evaluated through the EIS process. The *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* clearly states the importance of developing and maintaining a multi-modal regional transportation system that meets the travel needs of residents, workers, and visitors.

NCPC has reviewed several projects related to Union Station. These include perimeter security (2008) and Metro Station access and capacity enhancements (2014). The Commission also provided comments to the District of Columbia Zoning Commission regarding the Union Station North (USN) zoning district. Established in 2011, this zoning designation applies to approximately 14-acres of air rights located above the railroad infrastructure behind historic Union Station and adjacent to the H Street bridge, otherwise known as the Hopscotch Bridge, Union Station's parking structure directly to the west and Station Place is adjacent to the site on the east.

NCPC receives zoning referrals for comments regarding any proposed development within the USN district. The air rights were created as a result of the disposition of federally owned air rights above the railroad infrastructure behind Union Station for development purposes. Akridge Development won the public auction, and has proposed a future mixed-use development named "Burnham Place."

## PROJECT TIMELINE

<b>Previous actions</b>	<b>2008</b> – Final approval of perimeter security project
	<b>2011</b> – Commission comments on zoning text and map amendment for Union Station North zone
	<b>2014</b> – Final approval of Union Station Metro access and capacity Improvements
<b>Remaining actions</b> (anticipated)	– Approval of preliminary site and building plans
	– Approval of final site and building plans

## ATTACHED:

- Project Site

# Controlling Interests

