



Information Presentation

Commission Meeting: May 5, 2022

PROJECT**Washington Union Station
Expansion Project Update**

Union Station
50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC

NCPC FILE NUMBER

7746

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER

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SUBMITTED BY

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PRESENTER

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PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The purpose of this information presentation is to provide a refresher on the Washington Union Station Expansion Project in anticipation of a site visit and revised concept submission to NCPC later this spring and summer. NCPC staff will provide an update and what to expect with the formal submission later this summer.

The Commission last reviewed the concept plans for the project in January 2020. Akridge, the developer of the private air rights above the station tracks, provided a briefing on their project in May 2020. NCPC staff provided an information presentation in July 2020 regarding comments on the Draft Environmental Impacts Statement (DEIS) for the expansion project. Since that time, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the project proponents have worked to refine the plans for the station expansion. Recently, FRA shared with consulting parties three potential changes to the project layout and program including:

- Significantly reducing the proposed parking;
- Relocating the parking below-grade, along with new pick-up and drop-off; and
- Reconfiguring the bus facility east-west to align with the train hall

FRA anticipates submitting the project for the Commission's review in July. Prior to that review, the Commission will be invited to a field trip to learn more about the revised station plans and what they could mean for the adjacent air rights development.

Project Background

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 (WUS). The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) 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 for its approval over projects on federal land. The historic station, existing parking structure, and bus facilities are located on federal (FRA) land. The DEIS was released for public comment in 2020.

The project seeks to expand and modernize the multimodal transportation facilities at Washington Union Station. It considers the expected increase in rail traffic throughout the northeast due to future expansion and growth through 2040. The applicant has indicated that many station facilities are currently at or exceed their capacity, and with additional growth in rail service expected, improvements are necessary to address these issues. The current passenger facilities, including platforms, waiting areas and customer support services are not adequate to serve existing or projected future passenger demand for Amtrak, commuter rail, and other rail services. In addition, the user experience in the platform and waiting areas needs to be modernized.

The Commission reviewed the concept plans for the project in January 2020. The Commission provided a series of requests to help facilitate future project reviews. These included the request that FRA substantially reduce the number of parking spaces, and that the applicant, private development owner, and staff work with the District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP) and District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to evaluate and confirm the appropriate amount of parking given the mix of uses, traffic and urban design impacts, and transit-oriented nature of the project, prior to the next stage of review. The Commission also reviewed staff comments on the DEIS in July 2020, with a particular focus on parking.

Since that time, the project proponents have worked together to address comments they received through the DEIS process, including those from NCPC. FRA anticipates submitting the project for a revised concept review in July 2022.

Attachment:

- Project Map

Project Map and Site Aerial

