

Washington Union Station Expansion Project

Fact Sheet

Union Station is the multimodal hub of the Washington, DC region. The Washington Union Station Expansion Project represents a **once-in-a-century** opportunity to transform this vital transportation hub while preserving the iconic historic station building.

The proposed Project is intended to provide a reliably high-quality customer experience, with improved access to increased rail service.

What is the purpose of the Project?

- Support current and future growth in rail service and operational needs;
- Facilitate intermodal travel;
- Provide a positive customer experience;
- Achieve compliance with ADA and emergency egress requirements;
- Support continued preservation and use of the historic station building;
- Enhance integration with the adjacent neighborhoods, businesses, and planned land uses; and
- Sustain Union Station's economic viability.

Why is the Project needed?

The Project is needed to improve rail capacity, reliability, safety, efficiency, accessibility, and security for both current and future operations at Union Station.

Who is leading this Project?

The Project Proponents are Amtrak and Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC), the nonprofit organization chartered by Congress that serves as the steward of Union Station. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), which owns Union Station, is the Lead Agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



Aerial view of Union Station today

What are the Project alternatives?

FRA is evaluating six action alternatives in addition to the No Action Alternative. The action alternatives all include the following major elements:

- Reconstructed tracks and wider platforms for more efficient rail operations;
- Infrastructure to support increases in Amtrak, MARC, and VRE service;
- New concourse space to improve connections for station users;
- New train hall to provide light and air over the tracks
- New bus and parking facilities;
- Improved pedestrian spaces and additional entrances;
- Additional bicycle facilities;
- Improved vehicular circulation and pick-up/drop-off areas;
- Additional retail and passenger amenities; and
- Continued preservation of the historic station building.

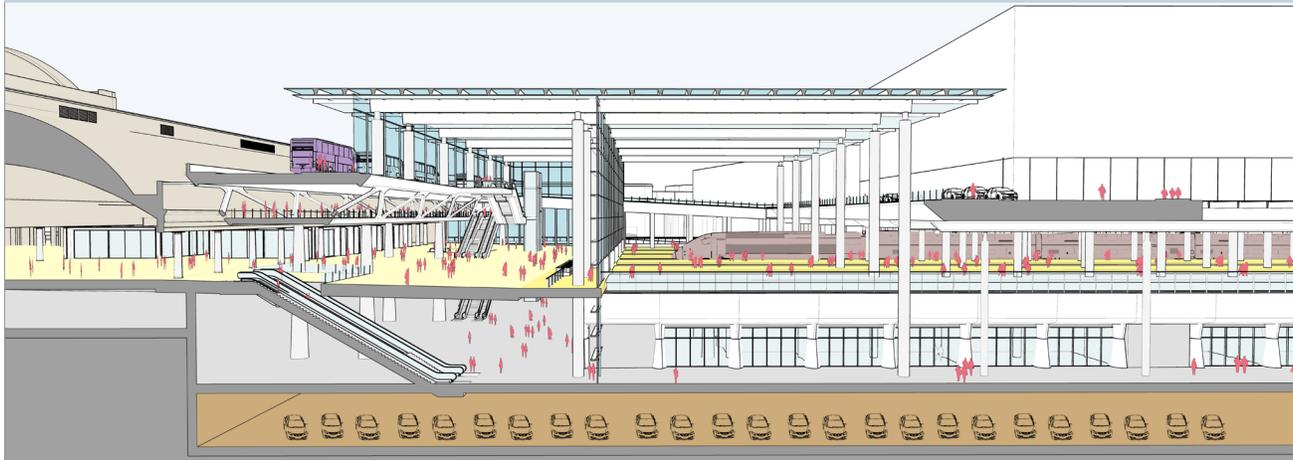
The action alternatives differ in how they arrange the train hall, the bus facility, and parking across the site. You can view the alternatives on the Project website, including some recent refinements in how they are being represented (www.wusstationexpansion.com).

The potential impacts of the alternatives will be assessed in the Draft EIS.



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Washington Union Station Expansion Project – Conceptual cross section - For illustration purposes only



What is an EIS?

An EIS evaluates and informs the public of a federal government project's potential impacts on the human and natural environment (for example, air quality, traffic/transportation, historic properties, and land use) before the project is approved or funded.

What are the next steps for the EIS?

- The Draft EIS will be released to the public for review and comment in spring 2019, after which FRA will host a public hearing to solicit feedback;
- FRA will identify the Preferred Alternative;
- FRA will prepare a Final EIS announcing the Preferred Alternative and responding to the comments received on the Draft EIS;
- FRA will sign a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD, which is needed for the project to receive federal approval, is expected in 2020; and
- The Project is being brought to 10% design as part of the EIS process. Design will be advanced further after the ROD is signed.

How can I offer feedback?

Public feedback is an important part of the EIS process.

FRA wants to hear from you! Please see the Project website and email address listed below. Additionally, there are three specific upcoming opportunities to make your voice heard:

- This fall, FRA and the Proponents are engaging with community organizations to provide more information about the Project and hear from stakeholders. Check the Project website (www.wusstationexpansion.com) for scheduled events. If you are interested in having a representative from the Project at your organization's meeting, please email info@wusstationexpansion.com
- After the publication of the Draft EIS, expected in spring 2019, the public will have 45 days to review the document and offer comments
- During this 45-day review period, FRA will host a public hearing. The hearing will offer the public the opportunity to learn about and comment on the Draft EIS's findings and the alternatives.

For more information about the Project, visit:

www.wusstationexpansion.com →

FRA wants to hear from you! Email:

info@wusstationexpansion.com

