



**FEDERAL CITY
COUNCIL**

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June 15, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As representatives of more than one hundred businesses and nonprofits from the Metropolitan Washington region, we write to you today to thank you for your commitment to furthering our nation's rich legacy of innovative investments in transportation and infrastructure with the American Jobs Plan. As the administration and Congress seek to spur investments in transportation and infrastructure, **we urge you to support funding the \$10.7 billion Washington Union Station Expansion Project (SEP).**

As Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) and Maryland Area Regional Commuter's (MARC) busiest station and the Virginia Railway Express's (VRE) second busiest, Union Station requires immediate investments for its expansion and redevelopment. Serving over 100,000 passengers each day, Washington Union Station is the heart of the Nation's Capital and the gateway to the most heavily used rail corridor in the Western hemisphere. Over the next decade, ridership volumes on Amtrak, MARC, and VRE are estimated to reach two or three times their pre-pandemic levels. Despite its central and essential role, the station has not seen any infrastructure improvements since the 1990s. It has a dangerous backlog of deferred maintenance that presents significant ADA access, safety, and security issues. Without a serious upgrade, it will struggle to handle riders—and deliver national, regional, and local economic benefits.

This year the Federal Railroad Administration, in collaboration with Amtrak and the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation, will unveil the ten-year, \$10.7 billion Washington Union Station Expansion Project (SEP) to modernize facilities and create a world-class multimodal transit hub. Not only will the expansion double the station's capacity for Amtrak and commuter rail service, it will enhance safety, access, and vastly improve the customer experience for all users, including intercity bus riders, Metro passengers, bicyclists and pedestrians. The SEP will create 67,000 construction jobs over ten years and increase access to employment and talent throughout the region and the entire Northeast corridor.

Union Station is a critical hub in the larger rail network that connects the Northeast Corridor with the growing Southeast Corridor, and with a few tweaks, will unlock the return on investments being made by Maryland and Virginia to enable commuter trains to 'run through' to each other's tracks and stations for MARC and VRE.

The project will alleviate critical choke points, decrease trip times, add a state-of-the-art, naturally-lit bus facility, and create new station entrances with expanded pick-up and drop-off, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities that will enhance the efficacy of arrivals and departures and relieve vehicular congestion at Columbus Circle. The station's expansion will significantly influence the successful development of the air rights over the Union Station rail yard to transform the largest swath of underutilized space in the heart of our city and deliver substantial economic, housing, open space, and connectivity benefits for the Nation's Capital.

Investment in a transportation project such as Washington Union Station's expansion will ensure hardworking Americans and their families have equitable access to resources and opportunities throughout the region. The project is essential for enabling equitable, inclusive growth and to combatting our climate crisis.

The undersigned organizations support this vital effort, and we come together to urge you to support this investment in our nation's rail station and the region's long-term competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Federal City Council
Greater Washington Partnership
Urban Land Institute
Capital One
Monumental Sports & Entertainment
PNC Bank
Graham Holdings
JBG SMITH
Bradley Holdings
Children's National Hospital
Abdo Development
Akridge
Alpha Corporation
American Management Corporation
Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc.
Arent Fox LLP
Arlington Chamber of Commerce
Association of American Medical Colleges
BakerHostetler
Bernstein Management Corporation
Capitol Overlook Condominium Association
Carleton Holdings
Carr Properties
Civitas Commercial Real Estate
CMI General Contractors
Coalition for Smarter Growth
College Track

Greater Washington Board of Trade
Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
The 2030 Group
Hilton Worldwide, Inc.
Washington Nationals Baseball Club
Clark Construction Group, LLC
Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
Congressional Aviation
CSG Urban Partners
Cultural Tourism DC, Inc.
Dantes Partners
DC Building Industry Association
DC Hospital Association
DC Sustainable Transportation Coalition
DowntownDC BID
Drew Company
E&G Group
EDENS
Enlightened, Inc.
EYA, LLC
Finn Partners
Forge Company
Fort Myer Construction Corp.
Gannett Fleming, Inc
Georgetown Public Affairs LLC
Greater Greater Washington
Horning Brothers

Hunter Taubman Fischer & Li	Russin & Vecchi PC
Ideal Electrical Supply Corp	SCahill LLC
Industrial Bank	Skanska USA Commercial Development
J Street Companies	Smart City Media
KIPP DC	SMART Transportation Division
Lime	SmithGroup
LRES, LLC T/A Lewis Real Estate Services	SRB Communications
McKissack & McKissack	STUDIOS Architecture
MDB Communications	Sudow Kohlhagen LLP
Miles & Stockbridge	The Buccini/Pollin Group
National Mall Coalition	The Hill Group
Newton Grange Consulting	The Levy Group Limited
NoMa Business Improvement District	The UIP Companies, Inc.
Perkins Eastman	The Urban Partnership
Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washing- ton	The Washington Center
Power 1 Realty and Design Group	The Wilkes Company
PPC-Leftwich LLC	Toll Brothers Apartment Living
Prince George's Chamber of Commerce	United General Contractors Inc.
Pulse Advocacy LLC	Virginians for High Speed Rail
Rail Passengers Association	Washington Area Bicyclist Association
Rand Construction	Washington DC Economic Partnership
RE/MAX Allegiance	WC Smith
RMS Investment Group, LLC	Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP
	Wood Partners

cc: Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg, United States Department of Transportation
Amit Bose, Deputy Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, United States Department of Transportation
Diana Lopez, Senior Advisor to the Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, United States Department of Transportation
Christopher Coes, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, United States Department of Transportation
Maurice Henderson, Senior Advisor, United States Department of Transportation
The Honorable Muriel E. Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia
Chairman Phil Mendelson, Council of the District of Columbia
William J. Flynn, Chief Executive Officer of Amtrak
John Falcicchio, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, District of Columbia
Beverly Perry, Senior Advisor to Mayor Muriel Bowser, District of Columbia
Beverly Swaim-Staley, President and CEO of the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation
The Honorable Thomas M. Davis, III, Former U.S. Congressman and President of the Federal City Council
The Honorable Anthony A. Williams, Former Mayor of Washington D.C. 1999-2007, CEO and Executive Director of the Federal City Council

Deborah Ratner Salzberg, Chair of the Federal City Council

Maura Brophy, Federal City Council Trustee serving on the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation, President and CEO of the NoMa BID

Gregory McCarthy, Vice President for Government and Municipal Affairs of the Washington Nationals Baseball Club and Federal City Council Trustee

Emeka Moneme, Vice President of Corporate Strategy and Innovation at Transurban and Federal City Council Trustee