

Union Station Dispatch

A publication of the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation

Preserving the History of Union Station. Developing its Future.

Fall 2013 | Edition II | Vol. 3



— INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRESIDENT —

by Beverley K. Swaim-Staley

There has been a lot to celebrate at Union Station these past few months, with the recent ribbon cutting and formal opening of the new inter-city bus terminal, and the 25th Anniversary celebration of the grand-reopening of the Station. We are very proud of these two great milestones that embody the core mission of USRC - to celebrate the historic successes of the station, as well as the continued progress for new, innovative advancements for expanded intermodal transportation.

In addition, our construction projects continue in and around the Station expanding on many more ongoing initiatives. Progress has been made on the earthquake repairs in the Main Hall, station directional signage is being enhanced, escalators replaced, and more. Please continue through our newsletter for more information, and for a complete listing of upcoming events.

— NEWS & EVENTS —

Visit recently opened retailers, including: H&M opened September 19. Bold Bites II opened September 23 and in late October MAC cosmetics will open.

25th Anniversary: September 29th marked the 25th Anniversary of the Grand Re-opening of Union Station. The occasion was celebrated on Monday September 30th throughout Union Station. Take a moment to view a short [video](#) compiled by the Federal City Council. Special thanks to the participating station vendors as well as the Union Station Preservation Coalition and the Amtrak & Akridge Master Planning team for celebrating the day with us!

Upcoming Events:

October 21: [MoveDC "Workshop on the Run"](#) on the West Carriage Porch. Provide feedback to improve transportation in the District.

October 24: AIA DC Architecture Week. Registered participants tour Union Station, see more information [here](#).

October 28 - November 1: Pieces from the world's biggest painting exhibit will be on display. Excerpts from the monumental art project featured at the ImJinGak Peace Park in Gyeonggi Province, Korea will be on site at Union Station.

November 1: Union Station Outdoor Market closes for the season. Will return May 2014.

December 3: Norwegian Embassy and Union Station tree lighting event on the West Carriage Porch.

February 11: Uline Arena celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Beatle's First Concert in the United States.

— UNION STATION PROJECTS —

Union Station Bus Terminal Completed

On Tuesday, September 17th the Union Station Intercity Bus Terminal officially opened. DC Delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton; Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, Karen Hedlund; and DDOT Director, Terry Bellamy joined USRC in the ribbon cutting marking completion of the newest addition to the Union Station multi-modal facility.



From Left: USRC President & CEO, Beverley Swaim-Staley; DDOT Director, Terry Bellamy; DC Congresswoman, Eleanor Holmes Norton; FRA Deputy Administrator, Karen Hedlund.

Improvements to this expanded bus terminal include new dedicated waiting and service pavilions, efficient restrooms, terraces and new directional signage throughout. The new facility will provide year-round amenities to over 2.6 million bus travelers passing through Union Station. In the first year of operations, approximately 1,906 buses carrying 49,943 passengers depart the Bus Deck every week. We are pleased this facility will be the model for future bus terminals across the country and confident the improvements provide a better passenger experience for all users.



Union Station Bus Terminal. ©Anice Hoachlander

Main Hall Restoration

It may not be easy to tell from down below, but way up on the scaffolding above the Main Hall, there is a lot of work going on. Workers from Hayles and Howe, historic plaster specialists, have been installing an elaborate system of steel framing to provide a completely new and seismically sound support structure for the historic plaster ceiling. The steel framing is almost complete in Bay 1, with repairs to the face of the plaster, which must follow the steel installation, about 50% complete. Once the plaster is cured, the entire ceiling bay will be repainted and new gold leafing will be applied. In addition to all the work on the ceiling itself, the project team has been working in the attic above the ceiling to reconfigure and improve the heating and air-conditioning systems by realigning ductwork and creating new connections to the ceiling diffusers that will allow them to be cleaned and serviced regularly in the future. Look for the unveiling of the first completed bay sometime around New Year's Day.



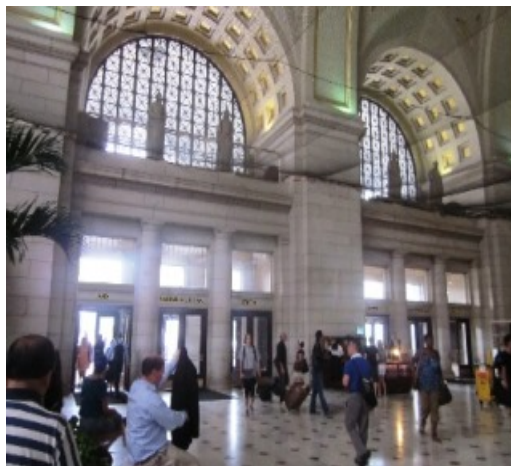
New steel reinforcing installed on the back of the Main Hall ceiling adheres the old plaster with the new plaster wadding.



New fasteners installed from the front side of the ceiling will be tied to the back ceiling structure with wire ties.

Station Directional Signage

USRC has been working with the Station developer, USI, and Amtrak to finalize designs to update and expand the existing signage of the complex. The proposed designs have been submitted to the historic review agencies to ensure the Station's historic character is not compromised. Once all review agencies comments are received, an RFP will be issued for fabrication and installation. As part of the improvements, ADA compliant signage is currently being installed within the station. In addition, WMATA is nearly complete with replacing the old signage for the Union Station Metro Station.



Proposed Main Hall and Passenger Concourse Signage. Images courtesy of GTM Architects.

Recently installed Metro Signage.

Garage and Station Escalator Replacement Initiative

The 10 escalators in the Union Station parking garage were installed over 25 years ago and have reached the end of their life-expectancy. USRC, working with DDOT, obtained a matching grant from the Federal Railroad Administration to help pay for their replacement.

The first three escalators have been removed and new ones installed. Once these escalators are put into service in October, the three adjacent escalators will be closed and removed, with the new escalators operating in the “up” direction. The process will be repeated at the lower levels until all the escalators are replaced sometime in mid-2015.



The first new garage escalator being installed between levels 2 and 3.

Escalators throughout Union Station are also being replaced with new state-of-the-art units. The first replacement escalator was completed in August and is now operating, taking patrons from the passenger concourse up to the mezzanine bridge where they can access the bus terminal, parking garage, and rental car counters, as well as the shops on the second level of the retail concourse. The opposite escalator, also serving the mezzanine bridge is expected to be completed by the end of October. Six additional escalators will then be replaced throughout the retail concourse over the next 18 months.

Please pardon the disruption while these improvements are made to increase the safety of our station users, use caution and allow extra time to arrive at your destination safely.

— GET TO KNOW —

USRC's Principal Planner, Cindy Petkac



Cindy recently joined USRC as Principal Planner. It's a return move to D.C. for the native Clevelander; she was a neighborhood planner with the District Office of Planning from 2003 to 2006 and very involved in the early planning efforts for NoMa as well as the area around Nationals Park. She even went to the Nats first game in D.C. at RFK Stadium. Cindy lives near the ballpark and went to several games this season. She is really bummed they didn't make the playoffs, but she's used to disappointment being an avid Cleveland Browns and Indians fan. Although optimism abounds, as five games into the season the Browns have a winning record!

In the interim D.C. years, Cindy moved to Duluth, Minnesota where she was the Planning Manager for the City of Duluth. After several long, cold winters there, Cindy decided she needed to thaw out and realized that she missed D.C., (even the politics). She is excited to be back and part of the Union Station team, working with Amtrak, Akridge and USI to implement the long-term vision for improving the functionality and capacity of this important regional, intermodal transportation facility, which will also include the creation of a mixed-use neighborhood in the air rights development over the train tracks. Cindy will be leading the Historic Preservation Plan for the Union Station Complex that will kick-off early next year.

She holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Cleveland State University and a B.A. in Geography from Bowling Green State University.

— INTERESTING FACT —

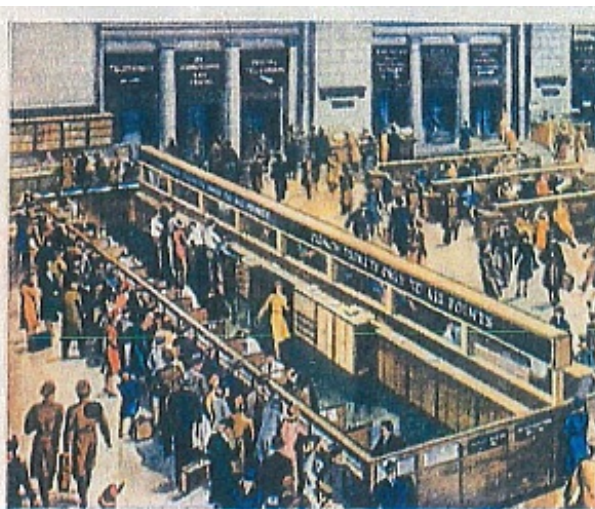
Bus Terminal Morse Code: The texture on the yellow surfaces of the new retail and information pavilions in the bus terminal is Morse code from the song "Soul Meets Body" by popular band, Death Cab for Cutie, song lyrics "cause in my head there is a Greyhound station where I send my thoughts to far off destination".



Information and Retail Pavilion in the Union Station Inter-city Bus Terminal. ©Anice Hoachlander

A Piece of History...

A publication during WWII "Handling Wartime Travel"



360,916 railroad tickets sold through ticket windows in a single month! A record. Ticket windows have been increased from 15 to 65. The long ticket booth you see here is for coach passengers. There are also city ticket offices in the business district and a special bureau for the War Department and federal agencies.



What is USRC?

In 1983, The Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) was established as a non-profit organization charged with overseeing Washington Union Station's restoration and renaissance as a multi-use transportation center and a retail/entertainment center while preserving its significant historic character. Today, USRC continues to oversee Union Station as it continues to evolve into a premier world class inter-modal facility meeting the needs of more than 80,000 people who stream through the station daily. The USRC generates its revenue through operation of the parking garage and management of the developer's lease.

Beverly Swaim-Staley - President & CEO

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