

# WASHINGTON UNION STATION

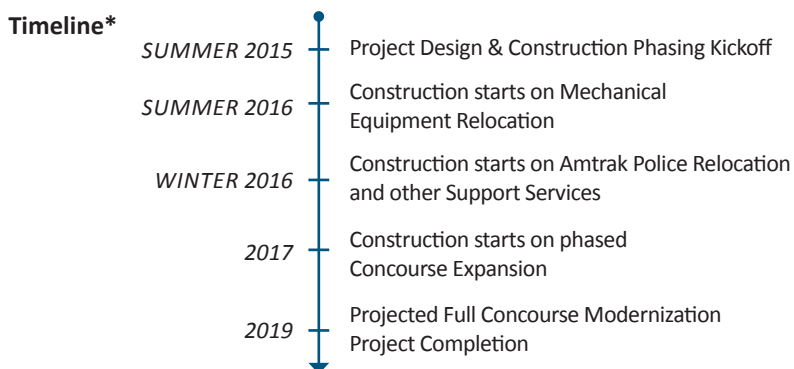
## PASSENGER CONCOURSE MODERNIZATION PROJECT

The Passenger Concourse Modernization Project will be the first set of improvements to come to life as part of Washington Union Station’s 2nd Century plan. The 2nd Century plan is a comprehensive improvement initiative comprised of multiple projects that seeks to triple passenger capacity and double train capacity over the next 20 years. The Claytor Concourse, Union Station’s intercity and commuter concourse, will be reconfigured and modernized to double its capacity. The project will assist in alleviating congested conditions and enhance passenger comfort and accessibility, while enlivening the space with new architectural finishes and natural light.

### AN IMPERATIVE FOR CONCOURSE EXPANSION

While Union Station has served the region well for over a century, it is now operating beyond its capacity, particularly during rush hours and peak travel times. Over 37 million people pass through Washington Union Station each year, making it one of the busiest intercity and commuter rail stations for Amtrak, Metrorail, MARC and VRE commuter service. Ridership has soared, resulting in long and crowded queues of departing passengers that routinely impede the public concourse, blocking flows and diminishing a fluid travel experience. With conservative projections doubling ridership at Union Station by 2033, implementing near-term solutions to gain capacity is imperative to maintain safe and efficient station operations.

### PROJECT SUMMARY



**Partners** Amtrak is leading the project in coordination with the USRC, WMATA, DDOT, MTA/MARC, VRE, and Akridge

**Design Team** KGP Design Studio, Grimshaw Architects, and ARUP

**Design Funding** \$4-\$6 million for design with contributions from Amtrak and the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC).



**EXISTING CONDITIONS:**  
View from Au Bon Pain looking East.

*Soaring popularity in intercity and commuter rail travel has resulted in crowded conditions in the station’s passenger concourse.*



**CONCEPTUAL FUTURE (Credit: KGP design studio/Grimshaw):**  
View from Au Bon Pain looking East.

*The Concourse Modernization Project will double passenger space, improve circulation and connectivity to all transportation modes, add new amenities and enliven the space with new architectural features.*

*\* Construction will be phased to minimize the disruption of passenger operations. Early action relocations of support services will not impact customers.*



EXISTING CONCOURSE WIDTH

NEW CONCOURSE SPACE

*Passenger space will be nearly doubled when compared to current conditions by absorbing underutilized, isolated portions of the station.*

## PROJECT BENEFITS

### Increased Passenger Capacity, Circulation and Accessibility

Approximately 20,000 square feet of new passenger space will be gained by absorbing underutilized and isolated portions of the concourse that are currently separated by dividing walls. In addition, select Amtrak support services which are now dispersed throughout the concourse, will be relocated to more strategic areas in the station. The result will be a vastly more unified concourse which will reduce passenger crowding and allow for more fluid and safe passenger circulation.

### Faster Connectivity to all Transportation Modes

A reconfigured, unified and modernized concourse will allow intercity travelers and commuters to reach their multimodal connections with greater ease. An unloading MARC commuter train holds as many passengers as three 747 planes – this influx of commuters collide with intercity passengers, resulting in a highly congested chokepoint especially when trying to reach Metrorail. The expansion of this connecting corridor in the concourse will address this chokepoint, as will planned improvements by WMATA for a new staircase and new First Street entrance.

### New Amenities for an Improved Passenger Experience

With nearly double the passenger space comes the opportunity to upgrade amenities that will decidedly improve the passenger experience. Among new amenities are new restrooms, a new and expanded ClubAcela lounge, and additional seating options for travelers as they wait for their connections. Further, passenger boarding gates will be realigned for more efficient boarding operations. When passengers enter the station from the tracks and platforms, they will be greeted by a new light-filled entrance.

### Enhanced Architectural Finishes

As part of the Concourse Modernization Project, new architectural details will dramatically brighten the environment with natural light and will provide for visual way-finding elements that will reflect the historic features of the iconic station.

## STATUS AND NEXT STEPS

In June 2015, Amtrak hired KGP Design Studio, Grimshaw Architects, and ARUP to achieve 100% design and construction phasing for the Project which has reached 30% design as of March 2016. Early action construction work will begin in the summer of 2016, including the relocation of key support services now impeding passenger circulation. The entire project is anticipated to be completed in 2019 in advance of the introduction of a new Acela fleet which is accompanied by more frequent service. The Concourse Modernization Project advances in parallel to other 2nd Century Plan projects as detailed to the right.

## OTHER 2ND CENTURY PLAN PROJECTS

### Rail Operational Improvement Projects

Led by Amtrak, these are near-term improvements to create redundancy and additional capacity in today's rail operations. These projects also allow phasing for the future Station Expansion Project. Construction is anticipated to start in 2017.

### Union Station Expansion Project

The USRC in coordination with Amtrak is proposing to expand and modernize Washington Union Station, the National Capital Region's principal intermodal transportation hub. The Federal Railroad Administration, as the lead federal agency, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate the potential impacts to the human and natural environment resulting from the Union Station Expansion Project. Public meetings are ongoing. [wustationexpansion.com](http://wustationexpansion.com)

### Burnham Place Project

Private developer Akridge is proposing a three million square-foot mixed-use development over the rail yard. The development will be a vital economic driver for Washington, DC, as it will reconnect the urban fabric of the station's adjacent neighborhoods. [burnhamplace.com](http://burnhamplace.com)