

## 8 Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

1 Agency and public involvement is an integral part of the National Environmental Policy Act  
2 (NEPA) process. Accordingly, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) provided numerous  
3 opportunities for open, collaborative, and meaningful participation for the Washington Union  
4 Station (WUS) Expansion Project (Project). This chapter summarizes the public and agency  
5 involvement activities for the Project's NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic  
6 Preservation Act (NHPA) reviews.

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### 8.1 Scoping

7 Scoping is an essential part of NEPA. The scoping process is an open way to determine the  
8 range of alternatives and resources analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It  
9 provides agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on the Project.

10 FRA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the Project in the Federal  
11 Register on November 4, 2015 (**Appendix A1, *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental***  
12 ***Impact Statement***). The NOI announced the beginning of the environmental review and  
13 Scoping process for the Project. The NOI also provided the draft Purpose and Need for the  
14 Project; information about the Scoping process; methods to comment on the Project; and  
15 the public Project website address. The Scoping process ended on January 4, 2016.

#### 8.1.1 Agency Scoping

16 On August 27, 2015, FRA convened an agency pre-scoping meeting to share and gather  
17 information on agency coordination for the Project. At the Pre-scoping Meeting, FRA  
18 provided background information on the Project, described the Project and FRA's  
19 responsibilities, and solicited comments on the future level of participation by each agency.  
20 Twelve agencies participated in this meeting:

- |    |                                   |  |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|
| 21 | ■ Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)   | Maryland Area Regional<br>Commuter (MARC) Trains |
| 22 | ■ DC Office of Planning (DCOP)    |  |
| 23 | ■ District Department of          | ■ National Capital Planning                      |
| 24 | Transportation (DDOT)             | Commission (NCPC)                                |
| 25 | ■ Federal Transit Administration  | ■ National Park Service (NPS)                    |
| 26 | (FTA)                             | ■ District of Columbia State                     |
| 27 | ■ General Services Administration | Historic Preservation Officer                    |
| 28 | (GSA)                             | (SHPO)   |
| 29 | ■ Government Printing Publishing  | ■ Virginia Department of Rail and                |
| 30 | Office (GPO)                      | Public Transportation (VA DRPT)                  |
|    | ■ Maryland Transit                | ■ Washington Metropolitan Area                   |
|    | Administration (MTA)/             | Transit Authority (WMATA)                        |

31

32 On November 17, 2015, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the WUS Columbus Club, FRA held an Interagency  
 33 Scoping Meeting for Federal, state, and local agency representatives. Listed below are the invited  
 34 agencies; an asterisk marks agencies that sent representatives to the meeting:

35

- |    |                                     |                                   |
|----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 36 | ■ Advisory Council on Historic      | ■ GSA*                            |
| 37 | Preservation (ACHP)                 | ■ Maryland Department of          |
| 38 | ■ Architect of the Capitol (AOC)*   | Transportation (MDOT)             |
| 39 | ■ CFA*                              | ■ Metropolitan Washington Council |
| 40 | ■ DCOP*                             | of Governments (MWCOG)*           |
| 41 | ■ DDOT*                             | ■ MTA                             |
| 42 | ■ District Department of Energy and | ■ NCPC*                           |
| 43 | Environment (DOEE)                  | ■ NPS*                            |
| 44 | ■ District Department of For-Hire   | ■ Securities and Exchange         |
| 45 | Vehicles (DDFHV)                    | Commission (SEC)                  |
| 46 | ■ District of Columbia Bicycle      | ■ SHPO*                           |
| 47 | Advisory Council (DCBAC)            | ■ Transportation Security         |
| 48 | ■ Federal Highway Administration    | Administration (TSA)*             |
| 49 | (FHWA)*                             | ■ VA DRPT                         |
| 50 | ■ FTA*                              | ■ Virginia Railway Express (VRE)* |
| 51 | ■ GPO*                              | ■ WMATA*                          |

68 At the Agency Scoping meeting, FRA presented a Project overview, background information,  
69 and an outline of next steps in the NEPA process. FRA encouraged agency representatives to  
70 ask questions and participate in the discussion throughout the meeting. FRA asked agency  
71 representatives to submit written comments by January 4, 2016.

72 **Appendix A2**, *Washington Union Station Expansion Project Scoping Report* provides materials  
73 from the Agency Scoping Meeting, including the presentation. **Table 8-1** summarizes agency  
74 concerns and requests raised during the Agency Scoping Meeting and in written comments.  
75 Appendix D of the Scoping Report (**Appendix A2**) provides a complete list of the agency  
76 comments. FRA received Scoping comment letters from the following agencies: NPS, GPO,  
77 DDOT, NCPC, DCBAC, DCOP, and WMATA.

### 8.1.2 Public Scoping

78 FRA held a Public Scoping Meeting (Public Meeting #1) from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on  
79 December 7, 2015, in the President's Room at WUS. FRA's Project Website  
80 ([www.wusstationexpansion.com](http://www.wusstationexpansion.com)) and local newspapers (*The Hill Rag*, *Washington Express*,  
81 *Washington City Paper*, and *Washington Informer*) advertised the meeting (see **Appendix A2**,  
82 *Washington Union Station Expansion Project Scoping Report*).

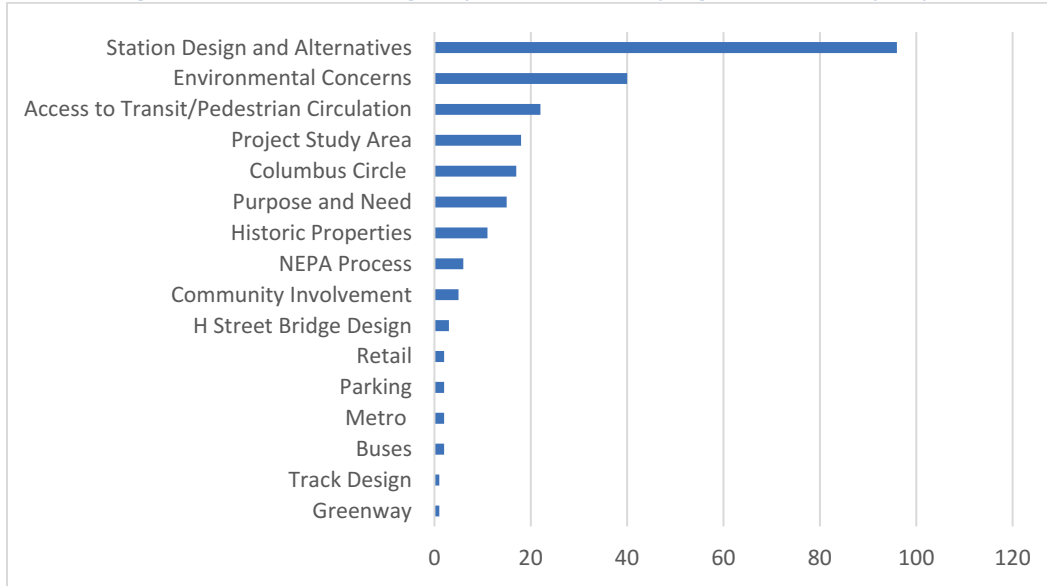
83 One hundred and eighty-five members of the public, representatives from local  
84 governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in the Public Scoping  
85 meeting. FRA made a brief presentation about the Project at 4:30 PM and at 7:00 PM.  
86 Representatives of FRA, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), and Union Station  
87 Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) teams were available to discuss concerns or questions  
88 with the attendees. Information provided at the meeting included the Project's draft Purpose  
89 and Need statement, current WUS functions, and environmental considerations for the Draft  
90 Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Materials shared at the meeting included Project  
91 Area map displays, and handouts.

92 FRA invited the public to submit comments in person at the Scoping meeting, by mail to FRA,  
93 by email through the Project website ([info@wusstationexpansion.com](mailto:info@wusstationexpansion.com)), or by using a  
94 comment form on the Project website. FRA received 99 comment forms, letters, and post-it  
95 note comments at the Scoping meeting. FRA also received 64 public comment letters and  
96 emails during the Scoping Period (comments are listed in Appendix D of **Appendix A2**,  
97 *Washington Union Station Project Scoping Report*). The majority of comments received were  
98 related to WUS design, particularly multimodal and pedestrian access and connectivity  
99 (**Figure 8-1**). FRA considered all public Scoping comments received in preparing the DEIS. A  
100 summary of public comments received is in **Table 8-2**.

**Table 8-1. Summary of Agency Scoping Comments**

Agency	Special Concerns and Requests
<b>ACHP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intent to participate in the Section 106 consultation process</li> <li>• Concern about the Project’s relationship with the private air-rights development, NEPA-Section 106 coordination, and applicability of the 2012 Union Station Master Plan</li> </ul>
<b>DCBAC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve existing bicycle facilities or leave undisturbed and improve bicycle parking</li> </ul>
<b>DCOP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze viability of a curb-less street at G Place NE to return priority to pedestrians</li> <li>• Study pedestrian connections to and through WUS and H Street Bridge</li> <li>• Include surrounding streets in Project design</li> <li>• Balance renovation, expansion, and redevelopment with historic preservation interests</li> </ul>
<b>DDOT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider transit more broadly in Purpose and Need statement to include vertical circulation</li> <li>• Expand current EIS Study Area to identify environmental resources, land use, social and economic factors, environmental justice communities, transportation, and traffic, and climate change adaptation and resilience</li> <li>• Conduct close coordination with private air-rights developer</li> <li>• Provide new access points to WUS and manage parking demand efficiently</li> <li>• Evaluate transportation network effects external to WUS and travel demand</li> <li>• Requested Cooperating Agency status</li> </ul>
<b>DFHV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze intermodal operations for public and private vehicles for hire</li> </ul>
<b>FHWA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended that DDOT’s H Street Bridge project remain separate from the Streetcar project</li> </ul>
<b>FTA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested Cooperating Agency status</li> </ul>
<b>GPO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include railroad siding connected to WUS and extending to GPO’s Building D warehouse in Project’s scope</li> </ul>
<b>MWCOG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study needs to consider law enforcement/tactical design and evaluate security vulnerabilities</li> </ul>
<b>NCPC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive project scope and evaluation of Project effects</li> <li>• Coordinate with other ongoing projects and planning studies</li> <li>• Clearly define WUS Expansion Project and the private air-rights development</li> <li>• Include evaluation of each alternative’s consistency with policies and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital</li> <li>• Analyze environmental topics: vegetation and tree canopy, stormwater runoff, impervious surfaces, energy use, and construction effects</li> <li>• Conduct visual analysis of multiple locations: Columbus Plaza, U.S. Capitol Building and Grounds, Delaware Avenue, and Louisiana Avenue</li> <li>• Analyze effects to surrounding historic properties</li> <li>• Requested Cooperating Agency status</li> </ul>
<b>NPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about scope of the Project and effects on NPS land and resources, including Columbus Circle</li> <li>• Requested Cooperating Agency status</li> </ul>
<b>WMATA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider future growth from commuter and intercity rail, local and intercity bus, and future streetcar service straining function of Metrorail station</li> <li>• Include Metrorail’s capacity deficiency in Project’s Purpose and Need</li> <li>• Include local bus service facility in the Purpose and Need statement</li> <li>• Include adjacent WUS-serving buses on Massachusetts Avenue NW, N. Capitol Street NW, E Street NE, and Columbus Circle in Study Area</li> </ul>

**Figure 8-1. Number of Agency and Public Scoping Comments by Topic**



**Table 8-2. Summary of Public Scoping Meeting Comments**

Topic	Public Comment Summary
<b>Station Design and Alternatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better arrival and departure announcement system</li> <li>Include boarding area for trains</li> <li>Better platforms and interlockings</li> <li>Consider high-speed rail</li> <li>Minimize height, density, and bulk</li> <li>Level-boarding platforms</li> <li>Do not demolish baggage claim</li> <li>Maximize natural light and provide light to platforms</li> <li>Reconstruct tracks</li> <li>Impacts to Hopscotch Bridge</li> <li>High-cost of Project</li> <li>Consider impacts to tour companies</li> <li>Maximize WUS revenue</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction impacts: construction area, cost, time, disruption to operations, streets, and parking</li> <li>Impacts of diesel pollution from trains</li> <li>Impacts to schools</li> <li>Concern about views of the U.S. Capital</li> <li>Account for underground streams</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Transit/Pedestrian Circulation/Bicycles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add entrances at F Street, H Street, and K Street, and new Metro entrance</li> <li>Improve Hopscotch Bridge and H Street entrance</li> <li>Improve vertical circulation</li> <li>Conduct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) evaluation of WUS</li> <li>Allow passengers to wait on platforms</li> <li>Provide access, circulation, and connection for all modes</li> <li>Reassess pedestrian entry, egress, and routes</li> <li>Provide better bicycle access and parking areas</li> <li>Consider impacts to disabled and aged patrons and access</li> <li>Consider access to surrounding neighborhoods</li> </ul>

Topic	Public Comment Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve congestion by Amtrak gates</li> <li>• Improved access to H Street Streetcar</li> </ul>
<b>Project Study Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enlarge Project Area</li> <li>• Include VRE service and capacity</li> <li>• Include additional Metrorail Station</li> <li>• Consider railroad capacity south of the Station</li> <li>• Include impacts to nearby buildings</li> </ul>
<b>Columbus Circle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make Columbus Circle more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly</li> <li>• Match pedestrian pathways to desire lines</li> <li>• Improve operations of pick-up and drop-off lanes</li> <li>• Remove surface parking</li> <li>• Protect resident parking</li> </ul>
<b>Purpose and Need</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include bus access</li> <li>• Do not delay immediate track and railroad needs</li> <li>• Expand commuter rail capacity</li> <li>• Redesign concourse</li> <li>• Improve escalators</li> <li>• Accommodate planned MARC and VRE expansion</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Properties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about private air-rights development and impacts to historic properties</li> <li>• Size of Project Area inadequate to evaluate impacts</li> <li>• Concern about alterations to WUS</li> <li>• Balance modernization with preservation</li> <li>• Impacts to Railway Express Agency (REA) Building</li> </ul>
<b>NEPA Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More information needed to evaluate process effectively</li> <li>• Include private air-rights development in NEPA process</li> </ul>
<b>Community Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs)</li> </ul>
<b>H-Street Bridge Design (DDOT/FHWA Project)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pedestrian-friendly</li> <li>• Improve H Street Streetcar waiting area</li> </ul>
<b>Retail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add more businesses serving neighborhoods</li> <li>• Provide more mixed-use development</li> <li>• Develop more walkable communities</li> <li>• Consider food and retail services</li> </ul>
<b>Parking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce parking</li> <li>• Provide additional parking</li> <li>• Garage should be for Zone 6 residents</li> <li>• Include underground parking</li> </ul>
<b>Metro</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move Metro Station and realign tracks at First Street</li> <li>• Coordinate with Metro expansion plans</li> <li>• Improve WUS and Metro access</li> </ul>
<b>Buses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow Circulator pick-up at front of Station</li> <li>• Build new bus station or improve bus terminal</li> <li>• Consider impacts to bus passengers</li> </ul>

Topic	Public Comment Summary
<b>Track Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate flyover track from east side tracks to Brunswick line tracks</li> <li>• Separate freight from passenger rail</li> <li>• Electrify tracks south of WUS</li> <li>• Widen First Street Tunnel</li> </ul>
<b>Greenway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create greenway large enough to separate bicycles and pedestrians</li> </ul>

## 8.2 Agency Coordination During Preparation of the DEIS

103 Agencies can participate in the Project’s NEPA process as a Cooperating Agency or as an  
 104 Interested Agency. Agencies were engaged during specific points of the Project to inform  
 105 decision making throughout the NEPA process. Agency coordination included identification  
 106 and engagement of agencies to maintain open communications, as well as informing  
 107 permitting and resource agencies about the NEPA process, and applicable regulations to the  
 108 Project. FRA considered all agency comments received in preparing the DEIS.

### 8.2.1 Cooperating Agencies

109 Cooperating Agencies have particular expertise and jurisdiction with respect to any  
 110 environmental issue, including agencies for which the Project would require NEPA action. In  
 111 agreement with FRA through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), these agencies have  
 112 specific roles and responsibilities regarding the NEPA process and review pre-publication  
 113 drafts of the DEIS and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The Cooperating  
 114 Agencies provided input for defining the Project’s Purpose and Need, the range of reasonable  
 115 alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the  
 116 Alternatives Analysis. They also identified issues that could substantially delay or prevent  
 117 obtaining needed permits and approvals, participated in coordination meetings, and  
 118 prepared mitigation recommendations. The Cooperating Agencies for the Project include  
 119 FTA, NPS, DDOT, and NCPC. Information on these Cooperating Agencies is provided in  
 120 **Section 1.8, Introduction, Cooperating Agencies**. FRA convened monthly meetings with DDOT  
 121 to coordinate on the Project. These meetings included representatives of the H Street Bridge  
 122 and DC Streetcar projects. FRA has and will continue to convene Cooperating Agency  
 123 meetings throughout the NEPA process. **Table 8-3** summarizes Cooperating Agency meetings  
 124 held to date.

**Table 8-3. Cooperating Agency Meetings for the WUS Expansion Project**

Cooperating Agency Meeting Purpose	Date
<b>Cooperating Agency Meeting #1:</b> Discuss Cooperating Agency roles and needs, EIS and Section 106 process, design process, and environmental studies.	April 22, 2016
<b>Cooperating Agency Meeting #2:</b> Discuss Cooperating Agency memorandum of understanding, Purpose and Need, and concept screening criteria.	June 30, 2016
<b>Cooperating Agency Meeting #3:</b> Discuss Purpose and Need, No Action Alternative approach, and refinement of preliminary screening.	October 13, 2016
<b>Cooperating Agency Meeting #4:</b> Review of preliminary concepts, screening of preliminary concepts, retained concept refinement, preliminary alternatives.	May 10, 2017
<b>Cooperating Agency Meeting #5:</b> Combined Cooperating Agency and Interested Agency meeting. Alternatives refinement and preview of public meeting materials	March 12, 2018
<b>Cooperating Agency Meetings #6:</b> Review of Administrative DEIS (1/2)	February 3, 2020
<b>Cooperating Agency Meetings #7:</b> Review of Administrative DEIS (2/2)	February 14, 2020

## 8.2.2 Interested Agencies

125 Neither Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) NEPA regulations nor FRA’s environmental  
 126 review procedures define “Interested Agencies”. However, for the purposes of this EIS, FRA  
 127 consulted with Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as organizations with a special  
 128 interest in the Project (Interested Agencies). Interested Agencies and their areas of interest  
 129 include:

- 130 ■ **AOC:** Federal agency serving as steward of landmark buildings and grounds of the  
 131 U.S. Capitol. Landowner of property adjacent to WUS and interested in historic  
 132 preservation.
- 133 ■ **CFA:** Federal agency and advisor on design and aesthetics, as they affect the Federal  
 134 interest and preserve the dignity of the Nation’s capital. Regulatory reviewer for new  
 135 large-scale development.
- 136 ■ **Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development:** District  
 137 agency that assists the Mayor in coordination, planning, supervision, and execution  
 138 of economic development efforts in the District. Interested in the Project as a major  
 139 land use planning and zoning project in the District.
- 140 ■ **DCOP:** District Agency that plans neighborhoods, corridors, districts, public facilities,  
 141 parks and open spaces, and individual sites. Assesses plans and zoning for large and  
 142 complex projects. Interested in the Project as a major land use planning and zoning  
 143 project in the District.



- 144 ■ **District of Columbia SHPO:** District agency that promotes stewardship of DC’s  
145 historic and cultural resources through planning, protection, and public outreach.  
146 Interested in the Project since WUS is an historic property.
- 147 ■ **FHWA:** Federal agency that provides stewardship over the construction and  
148 maintenance of highways, bridges, and tunnels. Coordinating with DDOT on the  
149 H Street Bridge reconstruction.
- 150 ■ **GPO:** Federal agency that produces, preserves, and distributes official Federal  
151 Government publications. Adjacent and affected landowner to WUS.
- 152 ■ **GSA:** Federal agency that constructs, leases, and manages government property.  
153 Alternatives considered in the EIS may affect GSA property.
- 154 ■ **MDOT:** Maryland’s multimodal transportation agency. Interested in the Project since  
155 MARC operates in WUS.
- 156 ■ **MTA:** Division of MDOT that operates multimodal transit systems. Interested in the  
157 Project since MARC operates in WUS.
- 158 ■ **MWCOG:** Independent nonprofit association that addresses DC metropolitan area  
159 issues. Interested in the WUS expansion as a regional multimodal project.
- 160 ■ **TSA:** Agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with authority over the  
161 security of the traveling public. Interest in WUS expansion as a major transportation  
162 project.
- 163 ■ **VRE:** Commuter rail service connecting northern Virginia suburbs to WUS.
- 164 ■ **DRPT:** State agency that promotes transportation for the public of Virginia.  
165 Interested in Virginia’s commuter rail service, VRE operations, at WUS and the WUS  
166 expansion as a multimodal project.
- 167 ■ **WMATA:** Tri-jurisdictional government agency that operates transit service in the  
168 Washington metropolitan area. Affected adjacent stakeholder at WUS.
- 169 FRA invited Interested Agencies to attend coordination meetings at major Project milestones.  
170 FRA also met with smaller groups to address agency-specific or technical issues. Interested  
171 Agency meetings to date are listed in **Table 8-4**.

**Table 8-4. Interested Agency Meetings for the WUS Expansion Project**

Interested Agency Meeting and Agenda	Date
<b>Interested Agency Meeting #1:</b> EIS Scoping (same meeting as public Scoping)	November 17, 2015
<b>Interested Agency Meeting #2:</b> Preview of March 30th public meeting materials	March 30, 2016
<b>Interested Agency Meeting #3:</b> Preliminary concepts and concept screening	October 19, 2016
<b>DC Agency Meeting #1:</b> <sup>1</sup> Project overview, constructability, zoning, Alternatives, parking, bus operations, multimodal planning, noise and vibration, H Street Bridge	February 13, 2018
<b>DC Agency Meeting #2:</b> Project visual effects	February 26, 2018
<b>Interested Agency Meeting #4:</b> Combined Cooperating Agency and Interested Agency Meeting. Alternatives refinement	March 12, 2018
<b>Meeting with DC SHPO and CFA:</b> Further discussion of track alignment and platform plan and alternatives with regard to the train hall	April 18, 2018
<b>Meeting with DC SHPO and CFA:</b> Follow-on to the previous meeting	August 21, 2018
<b>Information Presentation to CFA:</b> Presentation of Alternative A-C to the Commission	November 21, 2019
<b>Conceptual Review Submission to NCPC:</b> Presentation of Alternative A-C to the Commission	January 9, 2020
<b>Parking Working Group Kick-off Meeting</b> <sup>2</sup> : Initiation of discussion on parking program following NCPC Conceptual Review Hearing	February 7, 2020
<b>Parking Working Group Meeting #1:</b> Discussion of parking program	February 14, 2020
<b>Parking Working Group Meeting #2:</b> Discussion of parking program	February 28, 2020
<b>Parking Working Group Meeting #3:</b> Discussion of parking program	March 6, 2020

1. DC Agency meetings include representatives of DCOP (including SHPO) and DDOT.

2. The Parking Working Group consisted of representatives of DDOT, DCOP, and NCPC along with FRA and the Project Proponents. See Section 2 of **Appendix A6, Parking Program Memorandum**, for more information.

### 8.3 Public Involvement During Preparation of the DEIS

172 There is public interest in the Project given its size and complexity and because residential  
 173 and business neighborhoods and areas surround WUS. While preparing the DEIS, FRA and the  
 174 Project Proponents encouraged meaningful participation of WUS users; nearby residents,  
 175 businesses, and institutions; and other interested organizations.

176 Flyers, fact sheets, brochures, press releases, electronic newsletters, e-blast notifications,  
 177 paid advertisements, and website updates complemented public meetings.

### 8.3.1 Public Meetings

178 Several public meetings (informal open houses and presentations) were held at WUS. The  
 179 first public meeting was the Scoping meeting described in **Section 8.1.2, Public Scoping**,  
 180 above. Further public Meeting held to date and the upcoming Public Hearing for the DEIS are  
 181 listed in **Table 8-5**.

**Table 8-5. Public Meetings for the WUS Expansion Project**

Public Meeting Purpose	Number of Attendees	Date
<b>Public Meeting #1:</b> Scoping	185	December 7, 2015
<b>Public Meeting #2:</b> Informational forum on the Project	224	March 30, 2016
<b>Public Meeting #3:</b> Presentation of preliminary Project concepts and screening	118	October 19, 2016
<b>Public Meeting #4:</b> Presentation of the Alternatives	68	March 22, 2018
<b>Public Hearing:</b> Comments on the DEIS	-	July 14, 2020 (Scheduled)

182  
 183 Information on the Project, the Project Area, Project Purpose and Need, concept screening,  
 184 public meetings, historic properties, frequently asked questions, and helpful links to  
 185 coordinating organizations were provided on the Project’s website  
 186 ([www.wusstationexpansion.com](http://www.wusstationexpansion.com)).

#### 8.3.1.1 Public Meeting #2, Public Forum

187 FRA hosted an informational forum on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, from 4:00 PM to  
 188 8:00 PM to inform the public about the Project. The forum was held in WUS’s Presidential  
 189 Room in an open house format to encourage discussion between the public and Project  
 190 Team (FRA, USRC, and Amtrak). Topics of discussion included the Project design concepts,  
 191 the historic station, concourse, tracks and platforms, bus terminal, taxi, parking, and bicycle  
 192 and pedestrian access. The forum was attended by 224 members of the public, including  
 193 community representatives, interested stakeholders, and residents.

#### 8.3.1.2 Public Meeting #3, Preliminary Project Concepts and Screening

194 FRA hosted the Project’s third public meeting and open house on October 19, 2016 from  
 195 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM in WUS’s Presidential Room. The Project Team was available for  
 196 discussion of the Project and to answer questions. Formal presentations were given at  
 197 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM.

198 This meeting was an opportunity for the public to review and provide feedback on the  
 199 preliminary Project concepts and screening. The preliminary concepts illustrated potential  
 200 Project elements that will shape the layout of the Project. The program elements include  
 201 realigned and improved tracks and platforms; new public concourses; a train hall; and new

202 parking, bus, and taxi facilities. FRA sought public comments to help determine the Project  
203 concepts that should advance for further study in the DEIS.

### 8.3.1.3 Public Meeting #4, Presentation of Alternatives

204 FRA hosted the WUS Expansion Project's fourth Public Meeting and open house on  
205 March 22, 2018 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM in WUS's Presidential Room. The Project Team was  
206 available for discussion of the Project and to answer questions. Formal presentations were  
207 given at 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM.

208 At this meeting, FRA presented the DEIS Alternatives and requested public input to help  
209 inform the evaluation of Alternatives in the DEIS. FRA also shared information on the concept  
210 screening and refinement process, preliminary alternatives, and alternatives refinement  
211 process.

### 8.3.1.4 Public Hearing, Draft Environmental Impact Statement

212 FRA will be hosting a Public Hearing on July 14, 2020, approximately 30 days after the release  
213 of the DEIS and during the 45-day DEIS public review period. At the Public Hearing, the public  
214 will be given the opportunity to submit verbal comments on the DEIS.<sup>1</sup>

## 8.3.2 Key Constituents for the Engagement Process

215 The Project Proponents and FRA formed the Community Communications Committee (CCC)  
216 to be a representative cross-section of community constituencies near the Project with a  
217 recognized and established organizational structure for communicating with their members  
218 and a high-level of interest in the Project because of potential impacts. The CCC was  
219 comprised of representatives from the following organizations:

- |     |                                    |                                    |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 220 | ■ American Bus Association;        | ■ DC Council Member Ward 6;        |
| 221 | ■ Amtrak;                          | ■ DDOT;                            |
| 222 | ■ ANC 6C;                          | ■ Destination DC;                  |
| 223 | ■ Capitol Hill Business            | ■ Downtown BID;                    |
| 224 | Improvement District (BID);        | ■ H Street Main Street;            |
| 225 | ■ Capitol Hill Restoration Society | ■ MTA for MARC users;              |
| 226 | (CHRS);                            | ■ National Association of Railroad |
| 227 | ■ Consortium for Citizens with     | Passengers;                        |
| 228 | Disabilities;                      | ■ NoMA BID;                        |

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 8.5.2, *Public Hearing on the DEIS*, for more details.

- 229 ■ Transportation for America (T4);
- 230 ■ USRC;
- VRE users; and
- WMATA users.

231 CCC meetings were convened prior to public meetings. The CCC previewed public meeting  
 232 presentations, provided suggestions on clarity and comprehension, and provided advanced  
 233 notice about questions and issues likely to be of highest interest at the meetings. CCC  
 234 members were also enlisted during meetings to share information about the public meetings  
 235 with their constituents. CCC meetings were not designed for providing and receiving formal  
 236 comments regarding the NEPA process. CCC meeting dates and purposes are listed in **Table**  
 237 **8-6**.

**Table 8-6. CCC Meetings for the WUS Expansion Project**

CCC Meeting Purpose	Date
CCC Meeting #1: Initial meeting of the CCC	February 11, 2016
CCC Meeting #2: Review materials for Public Meeting #2	March 21, 2016
CCC Meeting #3: Review materials for Public Meeting #3	October 6, 2016
CCC Meeting #4: Review materials for Public Meeting #4	March 13, 2018

### 8.3.3 Additional Public and Stakeholder Engagement

238 In late 2018, FRA and the Project Proponents initiated a public and stakeholder engagement  
 239 action plan to help ensure that the public and stakeholders remained aware of the Project  
 240 and NEPA process. This effort was conducted through briefings or by having a presence at  
 241 various events, as listed in **Table 8-7**. Depending on the event, representatives of FRA or the  
 242 Project Proponents were available to talk about the Project or answer questions.  
 243 Additionally, USRC arranged for an informational fact sheet about the Project to be deposited  
 244 at various locations, including Gallaudet University, George Washington University, 27  
 245 District public libraries, and Georgetown Law School. USRC distributed the same fact sheet  
 246 and the Capitol Hill and NoMa BID rest stops during Bike-to-Work Day (May 9, 2019).

**Table 8-7. Additional Public and Stakeholder Engagement**

Focused Public and Stakeholder Engagement Purpose	Date
Briefing with Mayor’s Office and Ward 6 Council Staff: Project progress, opportunities, and challenges	August 2018
Briefing with Mayor’s Office and Ward 6 Council Staff: Project progress, opportunities, and challenges	October 2018
Briefing with NoMa BID, Downtown BID, HSMS, and Gallaudet: Project progress, opportunities, and challenges	August 2018
Briefing with NoMa BID, Downtown BID, HSMS, and Gallaudet: Project progress, opportunities, and challenges	October 2018
Capitol Hill North and NoMa Office Hours: Opportunity for interested citizens to have detailed one-on-one conversations with FRA and Project proponents	October 2018

Focused Public and Stakeholder Engagement Purpose	Date
Walking Tours with Washington, DC Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials	September 11, 2018
History of Union Station Tour	September 15, 2018 November 3, 2018 December 1, 2018 June 15, 2019 July 20, 2019 October 26, 2019 November 23, 2019 February 15, 2020
Eastern Market: Opportunity for interested citizens to have detailed one-on-one conversations with FRA and Project proponents	September 16, 2018 October 7, 2018 November 3, 2018
Barracks Row Festival	September 29, 2018
HSMS Festival	October 13, 2018
NOMA BID PumpkinPalooza	October 24, 2018
Hill-o-Ween at Eastern Market	October 26, 2018
Women's Transportation Seminar Coffee	November 1, 2018
MARC PM Rush Push	November 7, 2018
International Tour	November 13, 2018
Union Station Holiday Extravaganza and Tree Lighting	November 29, 2018
Wunder Garten Winterfest Holiday Market	December 7, 2018
Winter Wonder in NoMa	December 13, 2018
Meeting with ANC 6C Transportation Committee	January 3, 2019
VRE Engagement	January 25, 2019
Capitol Hill Restoration Society Meeting	February 27, 2019
International Visitor Leadership Program Union Station Tour	March 19, 2019
Young Professionals in Transportation Union Station Tour	March 19, 2019
Earth Day event	April 22, 2019
Transportation Research Forum Union Station Tour	May 4, 2019
Eno Center for Transportation Future Leaders Development Conference	June 4, 2019
Union Station Tours	
Transportation Research Board Union Station Tour	July 16, 2019
MARC ridership event	July 18, 2019
DC Public Library Go Digital Fair	September 5, 2019
World Bank Transportation Tour	October 2, 2019
FEMA Underwriting Department Tour	November 20, 2019
Atlas Obscura Tour	December 1, 2019
	January 12, 2020
	February 9, 2020
	March 8, 2020
University of Pennsylvania's Weitzman School of Design	February 10, 2020
Meeting with ANC 6C	March 5, 2020

## 8.4 National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation

247 FRA initiated Section 106 consultation for the Project with SHPO in a letter dated  
 248 November 23, 2015. FRA’s letter provided information on the Project’s background, and  
 249 management of the Section 106 consultation process. FRA worked with SHPO to identify  
 250 Consulting Parties. Consulting Parties have expertise, jurisdiction, or a demonstrated interest  
 251 in the historic properties that the Project may affect. Through a letter of invitation, FRA  
 252 requested Consulting Parties to participate in the Section 106 consultation process and the  
 253 first Consulting Parties meeting on March 28, 2016. Consulting Party invitees are listed  
 254 below. Those with asterisks accepted the invitation:

- |     |  |                                   |   |
|-----|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 255 | ■ ACHP*;                                   | ■ DC Preservation League*;        | ■ MWCOG*;   |
| 256 | ■ Akridge*;                                | ■ DDOT*;                          | ■ NCPC*;  |
| 257 | ■ Amtrak*;                                 | ■ Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton; | ■ National Railway Historical Society, DC Chapter*; |
| 258 | ■ ANC 6C*;                                 | ■ FHWA*;                          | ■ NPS*;   |
| 259 | ■ AOC*;                                    | ■ FTA*;                           | ■ National Trust for Historic Preservation*;        |
| 260 | ■ Ashkenazy Acquisition Corporation;       | ■ GPO*;                           | ■ SHPO*;  |
| 261 | ■ Capitol Hill BID;                        | ■ Greyhound*;                     | ■ USRC*;  |
| 262 | ■ CFA*;                                    | ■ GSA*;                           | ■ Virginia Department of Historic Resources;        |
| 263 | ■ CHRS*;                                   | ■ Jones Lang LaSalle;             | ■ VRE*; and   |
| 264 | ■ Committee of 100 on the Federal City*;   | ■ MARC*;                          | ■ WMATA*.   |
| 265 | ■ Charles Allen, DC Council Member Ward 6; | ■ MDOT;                           |   |
| 266 |  | ■ Megabus*;                       |   |
| 267 |  | ■ MTA*;                           |   |
| 268 |  |                                   |   |
| 269 |  |                                   |   |
| 270 |  |                                   |   |

271 Key steps to date in the Section 106 consultation process are in **Table 8-8**. In addition to  
 272 meeting with Consulting Parties, FRA provided information at all public meetings held  
 273 throughout the NEPA process about the Project’s potential to affect historic properties.

**Table 8-8. Section 106 Consultation for the WUS Expansion Project – Key Steps to Date**

Section 106 Process Stage	Date	Action
<b>Initiate the Process</b>	November 23, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRA initiated the Section 106 process with SHPO</li> </ul>
	March 1, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRA sent invitations to Consulting Parties</li> </ul>
	March 28, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting Parties Meeting #1: Introduced the Project</li> </ul>
<b>Identify Historic Properties and Define the Area of Potential Effects (APE)</b>	May 9, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting Parties Meeting #2: Discussed proposed Study Area</li> </ul>
	October 6, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting Parties Meeting #3: Presented preliminary concepts, the proposed Study Area, and the proposed identification of historic properties</li> </ul>
	February – March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRA requested final comments on the proposed Study Area and identification of historic properties</li> </ul>
	August 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRA provided draft APE and Identification of Historic Properties Report for Consulting Party review; FRA made Concept Screening Report available for public review</li> </ul>
	September 7, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting Parties Meeting #4: Presented Preliminary Alternatives; discussed draft APE and Identification of Historic Properties Report</li> </ul>
	September 29, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRA received SHPO concurrence on APE and identification of historic properties</li> </ul>
	November 6, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRA issued Final APE and Identification of Historic Properties Report to the Consulting Parties</li> </ul>
	<b>Assess Effects</b>	April 24, 2018
Summer 2018		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRA assessed effects of the Project Alternatives to the historic properties within the APE</li> </ul>
March 29, 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRA shared Draft Assessment of Effects (AOE) Report with Consulting Parties</li> </ul>
April 30, 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting Parties Meeting #6: Answer questions regarding findings of effect in AOE Report; solicit comments on Draft AOE</li> </ul>
August 16, 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-on meeting with District SHPO on Draft AOE</li> </ul>
November 19, 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting Parties Meeting #7: Introduce Alternative A-C (Preferred Alternative) to the consulting parties and inform them of the addition of the First Street Tunnel column removal work to the Project.</li> </ul>



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## 8.5 Public Review of the DEIS

### 8.5.1 Public Review and Comment Period

#### 8.5.1.1 Availability of the DEIS

272 In accordance with NEPA and FRA’s *Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts*, the  
273 DEIS is open for comment from agencies and the public. FRA has made the DEIS available on  
274 the Project website. FRA filed the DEIS with the EPA and the EPA will publish a Notice of  
275 Availability (NOA) of the DEIS in the *Federal Register* on June 12, 2020. The public comment  
276 period will remain open for 45 days after publication of the NOA. Agencies and the public  
277 have been notified of the DEIS availability and comment period. They have been invited to  
278 the Public Hearing scheduled for July 14, 2020 (see **Section 8.5.2, Public Hearing on the DEIS**,  
279 below).

280 Notifications were made available through the *Federal Register*, emails to the Project mailing  
281 list, updates to the Project’s website, advertisements in the *Washington Post*, *Hill Rag*,  
282 *Washington Informer*, *El Tiempo*, and *Washington City Paper*; and letters to agencies, elected  
283 officials, community representatives, and other stakeholders.

284 The DEIS is available on the Project website at: [www.wusstationexpansion.com](http://www.wusstationexpansion.com). Publication  
285 materials included a toll-free telephone number to call for information on how to view or  
286 obtain a copy of the DEIS. A limited number of individual copies are available upon request at  
287 [info@WUSstationexpansion.com](mailto:info@WUSstationexpansion.com).

#### 8.5.1.2 Submitting Comments on the DEIS

288 Agencies and the public may submit comments on the DEIS via the following methods:

289 ■ Sending an email or written comment to [info@WUSstationexpansion.com](mailto:info@WUSstationexpansion.com)

290 ■ Sending a written comment to:

291 David Valenstein  
292 Office of Federal Railroad Policy and Development  
293 USDOT Federal Railroad Administration (MS-20 RPD-10)  
294 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
295 Washington, DC 20590

296 ■ Giving oral testimony at the public hearing (see **Section 8.5.2, Public Hearing on the**  
297 *DEIS*, below)

298 Agencies and the public have until **July 27, 2020** (45 calendar days from the NOA publication)  
299 to provide comments.

300 All comments received will become part of the public record. Commenters' names and, when  
301 applicable, organizational affiliations, may be shown but no other identifying personal  
302 information (including personal email addresses) will be published.

303 FRA is coordinating compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic  
304 Preservation Act under the general principles of 36 CFR 800.8. The Draft Section 106  
305 Assessment of Effects Report is appended to this DEIS for public review (**Appendix D1**). The  
306 public may provide comments on the Section 106 process and adverse effects to historic  
307 properties as part of the public comment period for the DEIS through the above methods.

## 8.5.2 Public Hearing on the DEIS

308 Public hearings are held at least 30 days after the release of the DEIS to receive oral  
309 testimony from the public, elected officials, and agency representatives. Due to the ongoing  
310 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency and consistent with the  
311 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance regarding large events and mass  
312 gatherings, FRA will conduct a virtual public hearing for the Washington Union Station  
313 Expansion Project DEIS. FRA will also hold other Project meetings virtually, including Section  
314 106 Consulting Party meetings, and encourages submission of comments on the DEIS and  
315 other documents electronically.

316 The virtual public hearing is scheduled for July 14, 2020. There will be two sessions: 11:00 AM  
317 to 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The virtual public hearing can be accessed by dialing  
318 (866) 478-3399.

## 8.5.3 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision

319 Pursuant to the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (FAST Act), FRA plans to  
320 issue a single document consisting of the FEIS, Final Section 4(f) Evaluation, and Record of  
321 Decision (ROD). After completion of the 45-day public comment period for the DEIS, FRA will  
322 respond to all substantive comments received from the public and government agencies.  
323 FRA's responses will be documented in the FEIS, which will address corrections and revisions,  
324 as appropriate. FRA plans to publish a combined document that considers comments from  
325 the comment period unless statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuing  
326 a combined document.<sup>2</sup> The ROD will identify the alternative selected for implementation,  
327 explain the rationale for this selection, and list mitigation measures and environmental  
328 commitments.

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<sup>2</sup> 49 USC 304a provides that FRA must prepare a single document that consists of a FEIS and ROD to the maximum extent practicable.