

WASHINGTON UNION STATION SECURITY UPGRADES

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF RAILROAD DEVELOPMENT

July 2008

Based on the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Washington Union Station Security Upgrades Project to install bollards and hardened planters in front of, and along the east and west sides of the station, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has concluded that the project is not likely to incur significant environmental impact.

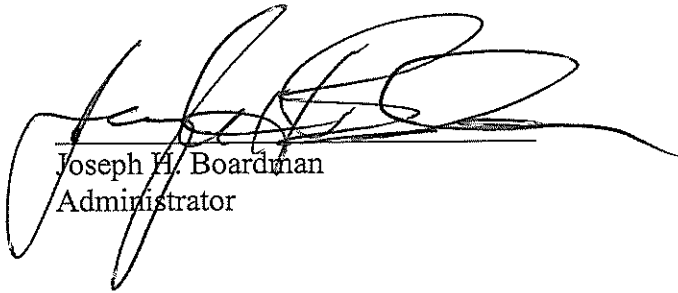
The Washington Union Station Security Upgrades Project (Project) proposed by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) supplements and dovetails with the Columbus Circle/Columbus Plaza Rehabilitation Project proposed by the District of Columbia. The Project would provide a predictable and defined level of vehicular stand-off to enhance the security of the station, without disrupting pedestrian flow and with the least amount of visual intrusion. The EA evaluated a no-build alternative and the proposed action (build alternative). The EA was issued for a thirty-day public and agency comment period; however, no comments were received.

Given the limited nature of the Project and its location in an urban environment, it is not projected to have any significant or noticeable impact on air quality, water quality, noise and vibration (beyond some minor construction impacts), solid waste disposal, ecological systems, wetlands, endangered species or wildlife, flood hazards or floodplain management, coastal zone management, use of energy resources, use of other natural resources, transportation, land use, socioeconomic impacts, environmental justice, public health, or recreational opportunities.

The only potential for effects of the Project are to historic resources. Although no significant effects to historic resources are expected, through consultation with the National Capital Planning Commission and the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DCHPO) for the purpose of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a determination has been made that the monumental appearance of the front of Washington Union Station will be adversely affected by the undertaking. A memorandum of agreement among the FRA, Amtrak, NCPC and the DCHPO has been signed to address Section 106 requirements and historic preservation impacts. No other impacts were identified and no additional mitigation measures are needed or required. Because the Project also involves a use of an historic site under 49 U.S.C. §303(c), a section 4(f) statement has also been prepared and approved

concurrently with this finding of no significant impact. The section 4(f) statement concludes that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the proposed action and that all possible planning has been undertaken to minimize harm and/or mitigate adverse effects to historic resources.

Therefore, the FRA finds that the Project as proposed by Amtrak and assessed in the EA according to FRA's "Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts" will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment.



Joseph H. Boardman
Administrator

JUL 23 2008

Date

Attachments: EA
Section 4(f) Statement