

Public Law 97-125
97th Congress

An Act

To amend the National Visitor Center Facilities Act of 1968 to provide for the rehabilitation and completion of Union Station in Washington, District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

Dec. 29, 1981
[S. 1192]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Union Station Redevelopment Act of 1981".

Union Station
Redevelopment
Act of 1981.
40 USC 801 note.
40 USC 811 note.

SEC. 2. The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) Union Station in Washington, District of Columbia, commissioned by Congress in 1903, designed by Daniel H. Burnham in monumental Beaux Arts style, and completed by the Washington Terminal Company in 1907, is an important historic and architectural landmark of the Nation's Capital;

(2) Union Station was built and used exclusively as a rail passenger station until Congress decided to make the historic Union Station building a National Visitor Center in 1968, allocating rail passenger operations to a replacement facility behind the historic building;

(3) the use of rail passenger service to and from Washington, District of Columbia, declining when the National Visitor Center Facilities Act of 1968 was enacted, has dramatically increased since that time with the advent of and substantial Federal investment in the National Railroad Passenger Corporation and the northeast corridor improvement project, justifying a reversal of the policy adopted 13 years ago;

40 USC 801 note.

(4) the historic Union Station building is now unsafe and unusable, and the replacement railroad station is inconvenient and inadequate for present and projected rail ridership demand;

(5) it is in the national interest to preserve the architectural features of Union Station and to provide in the Union Station complex a sound and fully operational transportation terminal;

(6) the Union Station complex and its vicinity present an opportunity for successful commercial development integrated with the transportation functions of the facility; and

(7) the purposes of this Act are to achieve the goals of historic preservation and improved rail use of Union Station with maximum reliance on the private sector and minimum requirement for Federal assistance.

SEC. 3. Title I of the National Visitor Center Facilities Act of 1968 (40 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking "National Visitor Center" in the caption of title I and inserting in lieu thereof "Union Station";

(2) by inserting a new caption "Subtitle A—National Visitor Center" immediately after the new title I caption; and

(3) by adding at the end of title I the following new subtitle:

"Subtitle B—Union Station Redevelopment

40 USC 811.

"SEC. 111. (a) Upon the request of the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary shall assign to the Secretary of Transportation all of the Secretary's right, title, and interest in the Union Station complex, including all agreements and leases entered into under subtitle A of this title. Such assignment may reserve to the Secretary the right to lease space for visitor services, to the extent the Secretary and the Secretary of Transportation may agree. For purposes of this title, the "Union Station complex" shall include all the real property, air rights, and improvements leased by the Secretary under subtitle A of this title, together with any property acquired and all improvements made in accordance with this subtitle.

Roof
installation.

"(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall, not later than twelve months after the date of enactment of this subsection, complete the installation of new roofs and associated drainage systems on all existing roof surfaces of the historic Union Station building. Of funds appropriated to the Secretary under the construction appropriation for the National Park System for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1982, not less than \$8,100,000 shall be available to and allocated by the Secretary for such roof work. In the event the assignment provided for in subsection (a) of this section occurs prior to completion of such roof work, the Secretary shall continue to be responsible for such roof work until its completion, except as the Secretary and the Secretary of Transportation may otherwise agree.

"(c) Prior to the assignment provided for in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall permit the Secretary of Transportation to carry out or cause to be carried out the activities authorized by this subtitle or by title VII of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 851 et seq.).

"(d) After both the assignment provided for in subsection (a) of this section and the completion of the roof installation required by subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall be relieved of the authority and obligation under subtitle A of this title to construct and operate a National Visitor Center at Union Station. The provisions of subtitle A of this title shall thereafter be deemed superseded by any contrary or inconsistent provisions of subtitle B of this title.

40 USC 812.

"SEC. 112. The Secretary of Transportation shall provide for the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the Union Station complex primarily as a multiple-use transportation terminal serving the Nation's Capital, and secondarily as a commercial complex, in accordance with the following goals:

"(a) Preservation of the exterior facade and other historically and architecturally significant features of the Union Station building;

"(b) Restoration and operation of a portion of the historic Union Station building as a rail passenger station, together with holding facilities for charter, transit, and intercity buses in the Union Station complex;

"(c) Commercial development of the Union Station complex that will, to the extent possible, financially support the continued operation and maintenance of such complex; and

"(d) Withdrawal by the Federal Government from any active role in the operation and management of the Union Station complex as soon as practical and at the least possible Federal expense consistent with the goals set forth in subsections (a) through (c) of this section.

"SEC. 113. (a) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation such sums as may be necessary to meet lease and other obligations, including maintenance requirements, incurred by the Secretary and assigned to the Secretary of Transportation under this subtitle. The Secretary shall transfer to the Secretary of Transportation at the time of such assignment such sums as may have been appropriated to the Secretary to meet such obligations and not yet expended as of the date of such assignment.

Appropriation
authorization.
40 USC 813.

"(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 102(a)(5) of this title, the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to purchase for the United States any property that was leased by the Secretary under subtitle A of this title and assigned to the Secretary of Transportation under this subtitle. The purchase agreement for such property may provide for payment by the Secretary of Transportation over a term not to exceed six years. There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation, in addition to the sums authorized by subsection (a) of this section, not to exceed \$275,000 per year for not to exceed six years to carry out such purchase. Such purchase shall not be subject to the provisions of title III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4651 et seq.).

40 USC 802.

"SEC. 114. (a) The Secretary of Transportation shall, on an emergency basis, carry out an engineering survey of all existing structures at the Union Station complex for the following purposes:

Engineering
survey.
40 USC 814.

"(1) to determine those actions necessary or desirable to preserve the long-term structural integrity of, and provide functional utility systems for, the historic Union Station building;

"(2) in cooperation with Amtrak, to determine those actions necessary or desirable to restore rail passenger handling functions to the historic Union Station building and otherwise improve rail passenger service facilities at Union Station, including improved passenger access to the trains; and

"(3) to prepare detailed estimates of the costs of such rehabilitation and improvement.

"(b) Concurrently with the engineering survey required by subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of Transportation, in cooperation with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, shall carry out a planning and market feasibility study to assess the commercial development potential of the Union Station complex. Such study shall also include, but not be limited to, an assessment of the feasibility and desirability of:

Study.

"(1) providing passenger transportation services from Union Station to the commercial airports in the area;

"(2) constructing a heliport at or near the Union Station complex; and

"(3) relocating to office space in Union Station the offices of Federal or other public transportation agencies.

"(c) The Secretary of Transportation shall complete the engineering survey required by this section not later than six months after the date of enactment of this section, and shall complete the planning and market feasibility study required by this section not later than twelve months after the date of enactment of this section.

Survey
completion.

"(d) Of amounts appropriated under section 704(a) (1) and (2) of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 854(a) (1) and (2)), \$1,000,000 shall be available to and be utilized by the Secretary of Transportation to carry out the purposes of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

Report to
Congress.

“(e) Within twelve months following the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to the Congress on the results of the engineering survey and planning and market feasibility studies carried out under this section. Such report shall be referred to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Public Works and Transportation of the House, respectively. Such report shall include a specific commitment of Federal funds for completion of the rehabilitation of the historic Union Station building, together with any necessary request for appropriations, in the amount determined by the Secretary of Transportation to be necessary in light of the survey and studies carried out under this section, from either or both of the following sources:

“(1) funds authorized to be appropriated and not yet appropriated under section 704(a) of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 854(a)) that are in excess of the amounts set out in the last sentence of such section 704(a); and

“(2) funds programed or reprogramed from any other appropriation available to the Secretary of Transportation.

Funding
prohibition.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, no funds from the Northeast Corridor Improvement Project and other rail or rail-related programs in excess of \$29,000,000 shall be available for the completion of the rehabilitation of the historic Union Station building or other purposes determined by the Secretary of Transportation to be necessary in light of the survey and studies carried out under this section if within ninety calendar days of continuous session of the Congress after any request for such excess funds either the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate disapproves of the availability of such excess funds for such purposes by majority vote. For purposes of this subsection, continuity of session of the Congress is broken only by an adjournment sine die, and the days on which either House is not in session because of an adjournment of more than three days to a day certain are excluded in the computation of the period described in this subsection.

Development
agreements.
40 USC 815.

“SEC. 115. (a) In order to achieve the goals set out in section 112 of this subtitle, the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to select and subsequently enter into one or more agreements (hereafter in this Act referred to as ‘development agreements’) with one or more responsible individuals, corporations, or other private entities with demonstrated experience in the financing, undertaking, and managing of commercial real estate development (hereafter in this Act referred to as ‘developers’).

Developer
selection.

“(b) The Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe the procedures and criteria for selection of a developer for the Union Station complex: *Provided*, That no final developer selection shall be made unless and until at least two developers meeting minimum criteria prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation have submitted to the Secretary of Transportation specific design and financing proposals for the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the Union Station complex, and specific proposals for the acquisition, conveyance, or lease of real property. The Secretary of Transportation is directed to initiate discussions with potential developers as soon as possible following enactment of this section to assure the earliest possible selection of a developer or developers.

“(c) Development agreements entered into under this section shall be considered cooperative agreements for purposes of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (41 U.S.C. 501 et seq.). With respect to such development agreements, the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to modify or waive the application of regulations otherwise applicable to Federal or Department of Transportation financial assistance agreements, to the extent the Secretary of Transportation determines in his discretion to be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this subtitle at the lowest cost to the Federal Government.

Development agreements.

“(d) The Secretary of Transportation is further authorized to enter into such other agreements and contracts, except any agreement or contract to sell property rights at the Union Station complex, with such persons, corporations, financial institutions, Federal, regional, or local agencies, or the Architect of the Capitol as the Secretary of Transportation deems necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this subtitle. Any such agreement may be made assignable to a selected developer or developers of the Union Station complex.

“SEC. 116. (a)(1) The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to acquire for the United States, by lease, purchase, or otherwise, any interest in real property (including, without limitation, interests in the nature of easements or reservations) and any other property interest (including, without limitation, contract rights) in or relating or adjacent to the Union Station complex that the Secretary of Transportation deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this subtitle.

40 USC 816.

“(2) If the Secretary of Transportation determines that property under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol in squares 721 and 722 eastward of the historic Union Station building is necessary to carry out the purposes of this subtitle, the Secretary of Transportation may request assignment of such property to the use of the Secretary of Transportation, as a part of the Union Station complex, and subject to the provisions of this subtitle, and the Architect of the Capitol shall so assign such property.

“(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to maintain, use, operate, manage, and lease, either directly, by contract, or through development agreements, any property interest held or acquired by the Secretary of Transportation for the United States under this subtitle, in such manner and subject to such terms, conditions, covenants, and easements as the Secretary of Transportation deems necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this subtitle.

“SEC. 117. (a) The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to use income and proceeds received from activities authorized by this subtitle, including, without limitation, operating and leasing income and payments made to the Federal Government under development agreements, to pay expenses incurred by the Secretary of Transportation in carrying out the purposes of this subtitle, including, without limitation, construction, acquisition, leasing, operation, and maintenance expenses, and payments made to developers under development agreements.

40 USC 817.

“(b) A special deposit account is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States, to be known as the Union Station Fund, which shall be administered as a revolving fund. Such special deposit account shall be credited with receipts of the Secretary of Transportation from activities authorized by this subtitle and the balance in such special deposit account shall be available in such amounts as are

Union Station Fund.

specified in annual appropriation Acts for making expenditures authorized by this subtitle.

Parking facility.
40 USC 818.

"SEC. 118. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of title 23, United States Code, and other Acts pertaining to Federal-Aid Highways, the Secretary of Transportation shall immediately approve the completion of the parking facility, and associated ramps (including any necessary pedestrian access and walkways, escalators, elevators, moving sidewalk access, and connections) at Union Station, to be financed with interstate highway funds apportioned to the District of Columbia. To the extent necessary to complete such project, such apportionment shall not be subject to any obligation limitation enacted for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1982, or the fiscal year ending September 30, 1983. The amount of such apportionment necessary to complete such project, not to exceed \$40,000,000, shall remain available to the District of Columbia until expended, without regard to the provisions of section 118(b) of title 23, United States Code. The Federal share shall be 100 per centum of the total cost of such project.

Parking facility,
agreement.

"(b) Within sixty days of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall enter into an agreement with the District of Columbia's Department of Transportation for the Secretary of Transportation's administration of the project described in subsection (a) of this section. Such project agreement shall provide that all right, title, and interest in such parking facility shall remain in the United States. The rate of fees charged for use of the parking facility may exceed the rate required for maintenance and operation of the facility, and shall be established in a manner that encourages its use by rail passengers and participants in activities in the Union Station complex and area.

Agreement,
release.
40 USC 819.

"SEC. 119. (a) The Secretary of Transportation is authorized, on such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, to release the Washington Terminal Company from any or all of its obligations under agreements and leases entered into under subtitle A of this title, including, without limitation, the obligation to construct a new railroad passenger station as provided in section 102(a)(4) of this title.

40 USC 802.
Waiver.

"(b) The Secretary of Transportation shall waive such statutory or contractual restrictions on the use of the parking structure and associated ramps described in section 118 of this subtitle as would otherwise be required or imposed because funds for such construction were or are provided under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

Supra.

"(c) The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to use funds appropriated under section 704(a)(2) of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 854(a)(2)) to carry out the purposes of this subtitle without regard to the matching funds requirement of section 703(1)(B) of such Act (45 U.S.C. 853(1)(B)). Funds appropriated under section 704(a) of such Act may not be used for design, construction, or operation of a heliport at or near Union Station.

Funding
prohibition.

Agreements.

"(d) The Architect of the Capitol is authorized to enter into agreements with the Secretary of Transportation or his designee or assign to furnish steam or chilled water or both from the Capitol Power Plant to the Union Station complex, at no expense to the legislative branch."

Repeals.

SEC. 4. (a) The Act approved November 5, 1966 (Public Law 89-759) and section 108 of the National Visitor Center Facilities Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-264) are repealed.

(b) Section 102(b) of the National Visitor Center Facilities Act of 1968 (40 U.S.C. 802(b)) is amended by striking the word "title" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "subtitle".

Sec. 5. As used in section 502(a)(1)(B) of the Rail Passenger Service Act, the term "Amtrak Commuter" shall mean, with respect to the period prior to January 1, 1983, "Conrail".

"Amtrak
Commuter."
45 USC 582 note.

Approved December 29, 1981.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1192:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 97-70 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation) and No. 97-269 (Comm. on Environment and Public Works).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 127 (1981):

Nov. 23, considered and passed Senate.

Dec. 16, considered and passed House.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 17, No. 53 (1981):

Dec. 29, Presidential statement.