

Brownfields Success Story

Union Station

Springfield, Massachusetts

Originally constructed in 1926, Union Station was a major transportation hub that at one time saw more than 130 passenger trains and 100 mail trains a day. The station, fondly remembered by older Springfield residents as a hub of activity, has been revitalized with the help of Brownfields cleanup and City redevelopment funding. The adjacent Hotel Charles property, which was also cleaned up with a Brownfields grant, has been repurposed into a parking garage for the redeveloped Union Station. The Springfield Redevelopment Authority sought to redevelop both properties in order to consolidate the Pioneer Valley Transportation Authority (PVRTA), commuter rail, Amtrak, and intercity bus operations into one hub.

Priming the Property for Redevelopment

Union Station was built to accommodate higher demand for trains in the greater Springfield region. The original station had a three-story terminal and a two-story baggage claim. Older residents of Springfield still recall visiting the station to see family, go to the bustling businesses nearby, or travel out of the city. The station notably served to welcome and send off soldiers serving in World War II. In later years, the demographic served by Union Station shrank as people moved away from city centers and personal vehicles became more popular. Union Station closed in 1973, and the vacant property was taken by eminent domain by the Springfield Redevelopment Authority in 1989.

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Figure 1: Front Entrance
Credits: EPA

EPA Grant Recipient:
City of Springfield

Grant Types:
Assessment, Cleanup

Former Uses:
Transit Station

Current Use:
Transit Station including
restaurants and newsstands



Figure 2: Lobby Area
Credits: EPA



Figure 3: Transit Station Waiting Area
Credits: EPA

Redevelopment began on Union Station in late 2012, with the bulk of the construction activity completed during the winter of 2016/2017 and a grand opening event in June 2017.

Today

The new station is now home to Amtrak, commuter trains, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, and intercity busses. In addition to the transit authorities that will use the station, the retail space inside includes restaurants and newsstands. According to the City of Springfield, Union Station has the potential to leverage 500-1000 permanent jobs. This collaboration between several state, local, and federal agencies enabled Union Station to rise again as a premier multimodal transportation center in the heart of Springfield.

“Union Station’s redevelopment, after over four decades of closure, has been a beacon for the City of Springfield. Winning the 2017 National Phoenix Award was a tribute to a partnership that could see the potential and stayed dedicated to the mission. The City of Springfield, Springfield Redevelopment Authority, MassDevelopment, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the leadership of Congressman Richard E. Neal were all essential in seeing through this complex brownfields redevelopment of our historic train station. We thank them all for their efforts and today enjoy the spoils of that work with our state-of-the-art multimodal transit facility.”

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno,
City of Springfield

GRANTS	
	EPA Brownfields Assessment Grants – Hotel Charles..... \$203,200
	EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant – Hotel Charles \$200,000
	EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant – Union Station \$200,000
FUNDING	
	City of Springfield Cleanup funding \$49,382
	Federal funding (including CMAQ funds)..... \$43,600,000
	State funding (including MassDOT, ANF, EOHEd, and MassDevelopment) \$44,700,000
	Local Funding \$5,800,000

For more information:

Visit the EPA Brownfields website at www.epa.gov/brownfields or contact Dorrie Paar, 617-918-1432, paar.dorrie@epa.gov