



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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UNION STATION REGIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER ARCHITECT AND PROJECT MANAGER NAMED

Springfield (April 4, 2011) – Mayor Domenic J. Sarno and Springfield Redevelopment Authority Chair Armando Feliciano today announced the selection of HDR Architecture P.C., as the design firm for the Union Station Regional Intermodal Transportation Center project. The City also has retained Skanksa USA Building Inc., as owner's project manager to oversee design and construction activities in connection with the redevelopment effort.

U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal, a longtime supporter of the Union Station project, applauded the announcement. “This is terrific news. The selection of a project manager and designer is a crucial step forward in the effort to build a 21st Century state-of-the-art transportation center to serve all of western Massachusetts,” he said.

Sarno noted that the project would not have reached this point without the strong leadership and advocacy of the Massachusetts delegation, including Neal and Congressman John Olver, and Governor Deval Patrick’s foresight in committing funds to develop a new plan for Union Station in 2007.

“The City and its Redevelopment Authority are committed to redeveloping Union Station so that transportation providers can offer their passengers the benefits of a completely rehabilitated intermodal transportation facility” Sarno said. “Our goal is to build a successful Union Station project, starting with careful design of space.”

“We have been working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit and Rail Administrations on this vital project and I am grateful for the high level

of cooperation that these agencies have afforded us in moving critical project activities forward,” Sarno said. He also expressed appreciation for the work of the SRA review committees in evaluating the OPM and designer proposals with diligence and choosing “two outstanding applicants.”

Feliciano, who served as a member of the Designer Selection Review Committee, explained why HDR and Skanska were the successful bidders. “We were impressed with HDR’s creative ideas, which will enable us to sensibly reuse space and spectacularly reprogram this historic facility,” he said. “The HDR team came well-prepared and focused on the potential financial viability and sustainability of the transit center.”

As for the OPM, Feliciano said, “the Skanska team demonstrated an understanding of the public construction requirements, as well as building constraints and potential construction risks, and offered innovative phasing and technological ideas, which the Authority Governing Board felt will be extremely beneficial in this project.”

Founded in 1917, HDR Architecture has grown into one of the largest and most respected architecture-engineering companies in the nation. Building Design magazine, a leading international architecture publication, recently ranked HDR as the world leader in designing civic and government buildings. HDR’s recent projects have included work on the redevelopment of Penn Station (the new Moynihan Station) in New York City, the Federal Building in Chicago, Spaceport America in New Mexico and the TD Ameritrade Park College World Series Stadium in Omaha.

Skanska USA Inc., is a leading provider of construction, preconstruction consulting, general contracting and design-build services to a broad range of industries including science and technology, healthcare, education, aviation, transportation, sports and entertainment. It is well-respected for its commitment to delivering high-quality projects on time and within budget. Skanska has been a leader in transit projects across the United States, and has been in the forefront of advocating for public-private partnerships both here and abroad. Some of its recent work in Massachusetts includes the Springfield Data Center and the Harvard Law School expansion.

The contract with Skanska to provide project management services is in the amount of \$1,059,279 and the HDR contract for basic design services is \$4.2 million. Both contracts are funded through the design phase of the project, with support from MassDOT. “Building the Commonwealth’s transportation system is a priority of the Patrick administration and MassDOT,” said that agency’s secretary and CEO, Jeffrey Mullan. “MassDOT stands committed to join with our local and federal partners in supporting this project.”

For his part, Neal described today’s news as a major milestone in the life of Union Station – and the region. “This plan promises a positive outcome, as indicated by our assembly of such an exceptional team of professionals to undertake the next steps necessary to bring this project to completion.”

Neal pointed out that this intermodal center will take advantage of Springfield's unique role as the crossroads of the Northeast and a pivotal transportation hub for north-south and east-west travel. "Many people visit Springfield regularly, and also pass through the city as they travel throughout New England," he said. "They and the city's residents will benefit from this intermodal center as well as from the additional development it is sure to stimulate."

Union Station, built in 1926, played a central role in the life of western Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley for half a century, and was especially busy during World War II. By the mid-1950s, however, transportation, settlement and economic patterns had begun to change radically as the nation moved from urban to suburban life and transportation shifted from railroads to interstate highways. By the late 1970s, Union Station had closed and it has remained largely vacant since that time.

The property, which includes the former terminal and adjacent baggage building and the site of the former Hotel Charles, has been owned by the Springfield Redevelopment Authority since 1990. The SRA is developing the transportation center project in its role as a federally designated transit grantee and urban renewal agency, and has been working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, the region's transportation planning agency.

The redevelopment of Union Station into the region's main intermodal transportation center will establish it as the key interchange for high-speed, intercity and regional rail; regional and local bus service; and taxi service. "We will be working closely with our transit partners, MassDOT, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, Peter Pan Bus Lines and Amtrak, as we advance design work for the project," said Sarno.

Plans call for restoring the main terminal building and using the adjacent site of the former baggage-handling building for construction of a 23-bay bus terminal with a 400-space public parking garage located on the upper levels. The project also includes space for private economic development.

By restoring and preserving Union Station's architectural and historic character, the plan will achieve redevelopment that will catalyze revitalization of the surrounding neighborhood and downtown Springfield.

The initial phase of work will include a thorough review and update of the Redevelopment Plan prepared for the project by HDR in 2008, followed by the preparation of design documents.

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