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## **Union Station Renovation Shouldn't Inconvenience Passengers**

By GARY WOSK

A six-month project to renovate portions of Union Station is expected to begin in November, but passengers rushing to catch the subway or a commuter train shouldn't be inconvenienced by the construction.

Amtrak and Metrolink, along with Catellus Development, will make \$1.4 million in improvements to such areas as passenger and pedestrian tunnels, lighting and signage. Some 15,000 passengers use the portals each day.

Also scheduled to receive a facelift are the station's south patio and restrooms.

The renovation budget includes \$512,000 from Metrolink, of which the MTA will contribute a \$243,200 share.

### **Lighting to be restored**

Original light fixtures will be restored in a manner that maintains unique finishes and character. Newer fluorescent fixtures will be replaced with upgraded fixtures that blend with the historic design.

Current signage will be replaced by light emitting diode (LED) signs. This upgrade will take place during the final phase of the tunnel restoration.

Metrolink ticket vending machines (TVM) in the tunnel area will be shut down temporarily, but passengers will find other TVMs located in several other areas of the station.

The MTA is providing Metrolink nearly \$35 million through the current fiscal year for operation, renovation and rehabilitation. The \$35 million represents 38 percent of Metrolink's current fiscal year budget for operations and rehabilitation.

When factoring in additional capital expansion funds MTA has allocated to Metrolink through the Call for Projects program, the total MTA contribution in the current fiscal year is \$44.5 million, or 19.7 percent of Metrolink's \$226.5 million budget.

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