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moving modern forward.

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April 27, 2026

Connecticut Department of Transportation
UnionStationPlatforms@ct.gov

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Docomomo US, the nation's leading organization dedicated to the preservation of modern architecture, landscapes, and design, we strongly support the preservation and restoration of the pedestrian tunnels at New Haven's Union Station, designed by Herb Newman. These tunnels are an important part of New Haven's architectural heritage and a significant complement to the historic Union Station designed by Cass Gilbert.

New Haven is home to some of the most important examples of modern architecture in the United States, and the Union Station passenger tunnels are a compelling part of that legacy, welcoming visitors from around the world to this historic New England city.

In 2023, Docomomo US held its annual National Symposium in New Haven in partnership with the New Haven Preservation Trust, Preservation Connecticut, and the State Historic Preservation Office. The event brought nearly 400 attendees from across the country and highlighted many significant sites, including buildings on the Yale University campus, Hotel Marcel, and residences designed by Herb Newman.

It is particularly striking that these tunnels were built at a time when Union Station itself was nearly demolished, and that today New Haven once again faces a similar choice between preservation and loss. While Herb Newman may not be as widely recognized as figures like Frank Lloyd Wright or Marcel Breuer, our office has received numerous messages from individuals expressing their appreciation for the Union Station tunnels and urging their preservation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Connecticut Department of Transportation's proposed improvements to Union Station. We strongly encourage the preservation of the tunnels and would welcome the opportunity to participate in further discussions.

Sincerely,

Liz Waytkus
Executive Director

Todd Grover
Vice President, Advocacy