

# Springfield's Union Station

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Site Location:  
Client:

Springfield, Massachusetts  
City of Springfield, Massachusetts

Constructed in 1926 by famed New York City rail station architects Feldheimer and Wagner, Springfield's Union Station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After allowing the station to remain idle for decades, the City of Springfield resumed property ownership in the 1980s.

To prepare this historic station for contemporary use, the City retained O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun (OTO) to perform a thorough environmental assessment. Results from the assessment indicated that the station contained considerable amounts of asbestos and other hazardous materials. Based on these findings, the City asked OTO to develop a long-term plan and budget for complete site remediation. As a related benefit, the City was able to use OTO's assessment findings to defend itself successfully against a lawsuit filed by a former station owner.

During Union Station's restoration, OTO monitored all phases of asbestos and hazardous material removal. OTO had calculated in the early 1990s a project abatement estimate of \$1.8 million. Despite cleanup activities lasting nearly a decade, total project costs amounted to only \$1.7 million.

Union Station is now an environmentally safe property. As a result, the City of Springfield has the opportunity to lease prime downtown space for shops, dining, and entertainment attractions.

"[Bob Kirchherr's] work was critical, both in the City's securing of the property and in the ultimate cleanup and stabilization of this historic building. The fact that the cleanup came in under budget is nothing short of amazing."

-Gary Shephard, Administrator  
Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)