

Notice of Public Hearing

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Proposed Modifications to Parking Garage Addition at Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station Docket R20-01

Purpose

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on proposed modifications to the previously-approved addition to the parking garage at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station as follows:

Hearing No. 631 Monday, April 20, 2020

Due to the ongoing public health emergency and the prohibition on public gatherings related to the COVID-19 outbreak, this hearing will be conducted by telephone.

Hearing Call-in Number: 202-962-1901

Número telefónico para la audiencia: 202-962-1906

(TTY) 202-962-2033

Public Hearing phone line open from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020. Anyone who is unable to access these materials via Metro's website or needs additional accommodation should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-962-2511 or TTY: 202-962-2033 as soon as possible in order for Metro to make necessary arrangements. For language assistance, such as an interpreter or information in another language, please call

202-962-1082 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing date.

For more information please visit wmata.com/plansandprojects



PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) regarding modifications to the proposed expansion of the parking garage at Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station. At the hearing, WMATA will receive and consider public comments and suggestions about the proposal.

HOW TO REGISTER TO SPEAK AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

This hearing will be conducted by telephone due to the ongoing public health emergency related to the COVID-19 virus and subsequent restrictions on public gatherings. All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to the proposal will be afforded the opportunity to present their views and make supporting statements and to offer alternative proposals. All individuals will receive up to five minutes to provide comments. Relinquishing of time by one speaker to another will not be permitted.

Because this hearing will be conducted by telephone, there is no advance registration to speak. Those participating in the hearing will have the opportunity to provide oral comments, subject to the time limits noted above, via voicemail and after receiving information on the proposal. Comments provided will be transcribed for the public hearing record.

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Testimony may be submitted online about this proposal at wmata.com/plansandprojects. Online submission will be available by 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 29, 2020 and will close Friday, May 1, 2020 at 5 p.m. This is in addition to your ability to speak at the public hearing. For those without access to computers or internet, testimony may also be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. All comments must be received by the Office of the Secretary by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2020 to be included in the public record.

The comments received by the Office of the Secretary, along with the online submissions and public hearing comments, will be presented to the WMATA Board of Directors and will be part of the official public hearing record. Please note all statements are releasable to the public upon request, and may be posted on WMATA's website, without change, including any personal information provided.

WHAT IS PROPOSED

WMATA is currently expanding the parking garage at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metrorail Station to replace parking in the surface parking lot that is being removed to make room for a private-sector development project at the station. This expansion was approved by the WMATA Board of Directors. Phase 1 of that garage expansion is already under construction and is projected to replace just over 52% of the lost surface parking. Phase 2 of the garage expansion will replace the remainder the of the parking spaces, which is approximately 194.

Due to the cost of the Phase 2 garage expansion, the availability of parking at other nearby rail stations (particularly White Flint and Twinbrook), and the expected disruption to the current Kiss & Ride area and Arts Walk during construction, WMATA is considering not completing Phase 2 of the garage expansion at this time or permanently.

Metro is therefore seeking comment on the following options:

- Constructing the approved Phase 2 garage expansion to replace 194 parking spaces;
- Deferring the decision on the Phase 2 garage expansion until parking demand at Grosvenor-Strathmore can be evaluated after the Phase 1 expansion is completed and put into service; or
- Amending the WMATA mass transit plan by reducing the approved number of onsite parking spaces by approximately 194 and not constructing the Phase 2 garage expansion.

REFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

The docket consists of this Notice of Public Hearing and an environmental report for the development project at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station. The environmental report is available online at wmata.com/plansandprojects.

Copies of the Notice and environmental evaluation can also be requested by mail by calling the Office of the Secretary at (202) 962-2511 or emailing speak@wmata.com. To accommodate mailing time, please make your request no later than Friday, April 24, 2020 at 4 p.m.

WMATA COMPACT REQUIREMENTS

The WMATA Compact requires that the Board, in amending the mass transit plan, consider current and prospective conditions in the transit zone should the project be built. The transit zone includes Montgomery County, Maryland and considerations include, without limitation, land use, population, economic factors affecting development plans, existing and proposed transportation and transit facilities, any dislocation of families or businesses; preservation of the beauty and dignity of the DC Metro Area; factors affecting environmental amenities and aesthetics, and financial resources. The mass transit plan encompasses, among other things, transit facilities to be provided by WMATA, including stations and parking facilities, and the character, nature, design, location and capital and operating cost thereof. The mass transit plan, in addition to designating the design and location of transit facilities, also provides for capital and operating expenses, as well as "various other factors and considerations, which, in the opinion of the Board, justify and require the projects therein proposed," all as more particularly set forth in the WMATA Compact.

The environmental report for the project is available for public review online and can be requested by contacting the Office of the Secretary as noted above.

The work and changes depicted in this information package constitute the proposed amendment to the mass transit plan for purposes of the WMATA Compact.