

January 26, 2023 Community Meeting Q and A

Metro has prepared the below Questions and Answers (Q&A) addressing comments raised at the January 26, 2023 community engagement meeting on the Northern Bus Garage Reconstruction Project. Several of these topics have been addressed at prior community meetings for this Project.

### **Zero-Emission Bus Update**

**Q: When Northern Bus Garage reopens will the buses be battery electric? Will there be any hydrogen fuel cell buses included in the Northern fleet?**

A: Northern will open with only battery-electric buses. There will not be any hydrogen fuel cell buses at this location.

**Q: What is Metro's procurement plan for acquiring zero-emission buses?**

A: Metro will issue a request for proposal (RFP) for our next five-year bus procurement, which will have all the details of our procurement plan cycle. We expect the RFP to be available shortly and will provide an update to the community when appropriate.

**Q: Are diesel fuel tanks still part of the design for the new Northern Bus Garage?**

A: No. There will be no underground diesel storage at Northern Bus Garage when it reopens.

**Q: Is the plan to install natural gas fueling at Shepherd Parkway still happening? Why is Metro still using natural gas in its facilities?**

A: Metro is fully committed to transitioning its bus fleet to 100% zero-emissions while maintaining safe, reliable and equitable service. Metro has more than 400 CNG buses in its fleet and expects to continue operating these buses through their useful life.

**Q: How will Metro charge the electric fleet at Northern Bus Garage, and what if any impact will that have on the community?**

A: PEPCO will provide the power for our battery-electric fleet via electric feeders. We are in the early planning stages with PEPCO for this work and will provide more details at future community meetings. Beyond potential short-term disruptions to traffic on local roadways for the construction of the feeders, we do not anticipate any significant impacts to the community from the new PEPCO feeders.

**Q: Does zero emission mean no diesel or natural gas buses, or will emissions be offset by reductions elsewhere?**

A: There are no offsets. The buses operating out of Northern Bus Garage will not have any tailpipe emissions. There will be no CNG, diesel, or hybrid buses operating from this facility.

**Q: Once the garage is fully electric, what will happen if power at the facility is lost?**

A: The battery-electric bus charging infrastructure will be built with redundant feeders. If one feeder goes down, the other will still have power.

## **Environmental Management**

**Q: How many underground and above ground storage tanks will be at the facility, and what will be stored in them?**

A: There will be no underground storage tanks at the facility. The above ground storage tanks will be used for:

- Emergency generator day tank (currently under evaluation for deletion)
- Automatic transmission fluid tank (650 gallon capacity)
- Used oil tank (500 gallon capacity)
- Coolant tank (500 gallon capacity)
- Scrubber wastewater tank (1,100 gallon capacity)

**Q: There was a gas leak at the facility, why wasn't the community notified?**

A: Washington Gas was immediately made aware of the situation and notified impacted customers. As discussed in the meeting, Metro will continue to work with the community to provide up-to-date information in a timely manner.

**Q: Is there a Memorandum of Understanding to change the light sequence along 14th Street?**

A: No. The traffic signal timing on 14th Street will remain unchanged unless we see an increase in project-related traffic congestion.

**Q: Has Metro explored alternative sources for heat like ground source heat pump or geothermal? Why are you still using natural gas and not solar power?**

A: Various heating systems were explored, and we determined Natural Gas fired boilers for heating are most suitable for the long-term operational needs of the facility. The property does not have adequate space to install ground source heat pumps or geothermal systems that could be operated and maintained without disrupting bus operations. In regard to solar power, the garage's solar infrastructure has been maximized on the rooftops and only provides a small fraction of the facility's normal power needs and will not be able to support the garages heating and cooling systems.

**Q: Are there plans to conduct soil testing on adjacent properties to check for contamination throughout demolition and construction?**

A: Metro is working with the District Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) to remediate contamination related to the bus garage, including:

- Removal of underground structures and storage vessels
- Disposal of petroleum impacted soil excavation
- Removal and disposal of free phase petroleum
- Removal and disposal of non-aqueous phase liquids
- Install vapor management system
- Install sentinel well
- Removal of light ballast and asbestos

Metro will continue to ensure remediation at the site meets all applicable standards.

**Q: Has Metro published information about environmental issues at the site?**

A: Yes. The Documented Categorical Exclusion and the Comprehensive Site Assessment are both available on the [project website](#).

**Project Updates**

**Q: Who can the community contact with questions about the project or to report concerns?**

A: Project related inquiries can be emailed to [MCAP\\_NBG\\_Reconstruction\\_Project@wmata.com](mailto:MCAP_NBG_Reconstruction_Project@wmata.com). Metro's Customer Relations team is available by calling 202-637-1328.

**Q: Will you partner with the Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program?**

A: Yes, Metro will continue its participation in the summer youth employment program.

**Q: I've tried to schedule a home survey, but no one has gotten back to me. Is it too late? How can I schedule one?**

A: It is not too late to participate in the preconstruction survey program. To schedule a home survey call (443) 221-4493 or email [nbgsurvey@ter-int.com](mailto:nbgsurvey@ter-int.com). As a reminder, the program only covers properties within 200 feet of the Northern Bus Garage Project site. The map showing the eligible properties can be found in the winter 2023 community meeting [presentation](#).

**Q: Can the construction fencing on Arkansas Avenue be moved back a few feet so that it does not narrow the roadway?**

A: The construction fence was purposefully setup, in collaboration with the District Department of Transportation, to deter speeding along Arkansas and Iowa avenue. We do not have plans to alter the current fencing layout.

**Q: What are the plans for the streetcar remnants, uncovered in the basement excavation? Will they be incorporated into the finished building?**

A: A historic marker of rail tracks will be incorporated into the sidewalk at the former turnaround entrance. If enough of the original tracks are recovered during demolition activities, they will be used and, if not, replica tracks will be created.

**Q: What is the timeline on the phases for construction?**

A: Major structural demolition began this month and there will be increased activity at the site over the coming months. Once demolition is complete, the foundation and concrete work will begin in the latter half of the year. The project is expected to be completed in 2027.

**Q: What are polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), and will you be testing for them at the site?**

A: PFAS and PFOS are contaminants such as:

- Aqueous film forming foam, which is used by firefighters to extinguish aviation fuel fires
- Teflon and Scotchgard, which are used as flame retardants on home furnishings

None of these are associated with the Northern Bus Garage Reconstruction Project, and we do not have reason to believe they are present at the site.

**Q: How long will remediation at the site take?**

A: It is our intent to remove all impacted materials above DOE Tier 1-CW levels as part of the construction phase. Additional information on Tier 1-CW levels was provided in the September 13, 2022 community meeting and is included in the [Q&A document](#). All major remediation activities should be completed by late 2023 or early 2024, with the completion of demolition, excavation and installation of the new foundation elements.

**Q: How will Metro manage dust and other particulates from impacting residents during demolition and construction?**

A: As part of our demolition plan, and in accordance with applicable standards, each excavator performing demolition activities has a dedicated laborer to spray water for dust suppression. Additionally, and consistent with applicable regulations, work areas are wetted down before activities. A fire hydrant hose is used and any run off water is contained within the site.

**Q: Will the new facility be LEED®-certified? And if it is, what will Metro need to do to keep the certification?**

A: The garage is designed to achieve LEED® Platinum certification, the U.S. Green Building Council's highest ranking. Once achieved, Metro will need to preserve and document energy savings to maintain its LEED® certification.

**Q: Where can we find details on delivery routes, related to this project?**

A: Truck routes are published by the District Department of Transportation based on the class of vehicles, specifics are available on their [website](#). All of the deliveries to the Northern Bus Garage Reconstruction site will follow the designated truck routes.

**Q: Now that diesel infrastructure is no longer being included in the building design, what will Metro do with those cost savings?**

A: Northern Bus Garage will reopen with a fully electric bus fleet, which means the new facility will need to be able to maintain and operate that fleet. The Project budget will reflect our increased investment needed to ensure the garage is electric-bus-ready at opening.

**Q: Does Metro have a plan for rodent control during demolition and construction at the garage?**

A: We have a pest management firm actively supporting the site.

**Q: How can the community stay informed, and receive more timely updates about activity happening at the site?**

A: Metro will continue to host quarterly community meetings and explore additional opportunities to keep the community engaged and informed, including more frequent website updates and alerting the community in advance of increased activity at the site.

**Art in Transit**

**Q: When will the temporary art banners be installed?**

A: We expect to install the art in transit banners, along the entire perimeter of the site, in April 2023.