

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

☒ Action ☐ Information	MEAD Number: 203434	Resolution: ☒ Yes ☐ No
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TITLE:

Virginia Compact Public Hearing Staff Reports

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

This presentation provides information to support approval of the Compact Public Hearing Staff Reports on proposed changes to increase multi-modal connectivity, improve operations, and enable joint development at West Falls Church, East Falls Church and Franconia-Springfield Stations and amendments to the Mass Transit Plan to allow the construction of these improvements.

PURPOSE:

To obtain Board approval of Compact Public Hearing Staff Reports and amendments to the Mass Transit Plan for proposed changes to East Falls Church, Franconia-Springfield, and West Falls Church Stations.

DESCRIPTION:

The Board authorized Compact Public Hearings on proposed changes at three Virginia stations during multiple Board meetings between 2020 and 2021. The hearings were held virtually or using a hybrid in-person/virtual method between July 2022 and October 2022. The staff reports summarizing the public comments with responses were prepared and published for a 10-day period in February 2023.

Key Highlights:

- At East Falls Church, in coordination with Arlington County, Metro proposes: (i) increasing bus loop capacity by three bus bays, (ii) relocating ADA parking, and (iii) narrowing the intersection width at the bus loop entrance. These changes will provide additional capacity for bus services and resolve congestion impacting bus operations.
- At Franconia-Springfield, in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Metro proposes: (i) adding new signalized intersections, (ii) reconfiguring access to Metro's parking garages, (iii) adding three additional bus bays, (iv) adding a new bus layover facility, and (v) eliminating a pick-up/drop off area. These changes will enable the

extension of Frontier Drive connecting the station to the GSA Warehouse area south of the rail tracks.

- At West Falls Church, in coordination with Metro's Joint Development Partner, EYA, Metro proposes: (i) reducing bus capacity from eight bays to four bays, (ii) reducing Park & Ride capacity from 2,009 spaces to 1,350-1,400 spaces, (iii) reducing Kiss & Ride capacity from 64 spaces to approximately 20 spaces, and (iv) eliminating the 68 paid on-street metered parking spaces. These changes will enable the development of up to one million square feet of development on Metro property.
- Board approval of the Compact Public Hearing Staff Reports and amendments to the Mass Transit Plan are required to allow the construction of these improvements.

Background and History:

The Board authorized staff to hold compact public hearings at East Falls Church Station in October 2021, Franconia-Springfield Station in May 2021, and West Falls Church Station in December 2020.

At East Falls Church Station, Metro recommended expanding the bus facilities to reduce congestion and improve operational performance as part of the 2015-published East Falls Church Station Bus Facilities Study. Between 2018 and 2021, staff coordinated the concept plans with Arlington County who secured all the capital funding to implement the project. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024. A compact public hearing was held virtually on July 21, 2022. In addition to public comments, feedback was collected online. Analysis of the 81 received comments shows 94 percent of respondents support the East Falls Church project or did not express an objection, and six percent oppose the project. The most significant concerns are related to bus shelter amenities, insufficient lighting and poor sidewalk conditions and inadequate Park & Ride capacity. The staff report clarifies the project will improve these existing conditions except for increasing Park & Ride capacity, which was not part of the public hearing scope.

At Franconia-Springfield Station, Fairfax County proposed extending Frontier Drive from Franconia-Springfield Parkway as part of the 2008 Springfield Connectivity Study Framework Plan. In 2017, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) published an Intersection Modification Report that included a traffic analysis of the proposed project concept plan and identified the impacts to the greater road network and Metro facilities. Between 2018 and 2021, staff coordinated the concept plans with the County and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) who will be responsible for construction of the project, tentatively scheduled to begin in 2025 if all capital funding is secured. A Compact Public Hearing was held virtually on July 12, 2022. Analysis of the 205 received comments shows 57 percent of respondents support the Franconia-Springfield project or did not express an objection, and 43 percent oppose the project in some capacity. The most significant concerns are related to the proposed removal of the on-street pick-up/drop-off area. The staff report clarifies the necessity of this action

to achieve adequate traffic flow requirements and the safety improvement in reducing vehicular and pedestrian conflicts. Customers using this facility will be directed to use the Kiss & Ride lot that is less than 300 feet away.

At West Falls Church Station, the Board approved the execution of a Joint Development Agreement in December 2020 with Falls Church Gateway Partners-Metro LLC. Between 2020 and 2021, staff coordinated the concept plans with the joint developer and Fairfax County for the proposed changes to the transit facilities to enable the development of up to one million square feet of residential and commercial uses. A compact public hearing was held on October 19, 2022, using a hybrid virtual and in-person format. Analysis of the 168 received comments shows 79 percent of respondents support the West Falls Church project or did not express an objection, and 21 percent oppose the project in some capacity. The most significant concerns are related to the reductions in parking and bus bay capacity. The staff report clarifies the proposed changes are based on an analysis of existing utilization and future demand to ensure adequate capacity is retained. The concept plan additionally preserves areas to expand parking and bus capacity in the future if parking demand or transit services grow faster than projected.

Discussion:

Staff held compact public hearings to gather feedback on proposed changes to transit facilities needed to increase multi-modal connectivity, resolve operating issues, or enable joint development at East Falls Church, Franconia-Springfield, and West Falls Church Stations. Board approval of the Compact Public Hearing Staff Reports and amendments to the Mass Transit Plan are required to allow the construction of these improvements. The capital costs and contractual delivery of these projects will be funded externally. Metro's role will be coordination of the final design and construction activities.

The amendments to the Mass Transit Plan are as follows:

- At East Falls Church, the changes to the transit facilities include: (i) increasing bus loop capacity by three bus bays, (ii) relocating ADA parking, and (iii) narrowing the intersection width at the bus loop entrance.
- At Franconia-Springfield, the changes to the transit facilities include: (i) adding new signalized intersections, (ii) reconfiguring access to Metro's parking garages, (iii) adding three additional bus bays, (iv) adding a new bus layover facility, and (v) elimination of a pick-up/drop off area.
- At West Falls Church, the changes to the transit facilities include: (i) reducing bus capacity from 8 bays to 4 bays, (ii) reducing Park & Ride capacity from 2,009 spaces to 1,350-1,400 spaces, (iii) reducing Kiss & Ride capacity from 64 spaces to approximately 20 spaces, and (iv) eliminating the 68 paid on-street metered parking spaces.

FUNDING IMPACT:

No direct impact on funding.	
Project Manager:	Steven Segerlin
Project Department/Office:	CFO/LAND

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	December 2020 – Board authorized Staff to hold a Compact Public Hearing for West Falls Church Station May 2021 – Board authorized Staff to hold a Compact Public Hearing for Franconia-Springfield Station October 2021 – Board authorized Staff to hold a Compact Public Hearing for East Falls Church Station July 2022 – Compact Public Hearings held for East Falls Church and Franconia-Springfield October 2022 – Compact Public Hearings held for West Falls Church
Anticipated actions after presentation	2023 to 2024 – Tentative construction of proposed changes at East Falls Church Station 2024 to 2026 – Tentative construction of proposed changes at West Falls Church Station 2025 to 2027 – Tentative construction of proposed changes at Franconia-Springfield Station

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of Compact Public Hearing Staff Reports and amendments to the Mass Transit Plan for proposed changes to East Falls Church, Franconia-Springfield, and West Falls Church Stations.

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING STAFF REPORTS AND AMENDMENT OF
MASS TRANSIT PLAN FOR CHANGES AT EAST FALLS CHURCH,
FRANCONIA-SPRINGFIELD, AND WEST FALLS CHURCH METRO STATIONS

RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Compact Section 15 requires the Board of Directors to transmit proposed changes to the Mass Transit Plan to certain enumerated agencies and conduct a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2021-38 authorized staff to hold a public hearing on proposed plans to (i) add three bus bays, (ii) narrow the pedestrian crossing to the bus loop, and (iii) relocate the ADA spaces in the Park & Ride facility at East Falls Church Metro Station; and

WHEREAS, A report on the results of the public outreach and public hearing regarding the proposed plans at East Falls Church Metro Station entitled *Compact Public Hearing Staff Report, East Falls Church Metro Station Bus Loop Expansion Project, Staff Analysis of the Public Hearing and Staff Recommendations* ("East Falls Church Staff Report") (Attachment A), was presented to the public for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, The final draft of the East Falls Church Staff Report includes (i) staff's recommendations that were presented to the public for review and comment on February 15, 2023, and (ii) the comments received during the public comment period; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2021-18 authorized staff to hold a public hearing on proposed plans to (i) add two new or reconfigured intersections; (ii) add three additional bus bays; (iii) add a new bus layover area; and (iv) eliminate the pick-up/drop-off area at Franconia-Springfield Metro Station; and

WHEREAS, A report on the results of the public outreach and public hearing regarding the proposed plans at Franconia-Springfield Metro Station entitled *Compact Public*

Hearing Staff Report, Franconia-Springfield Metro Station Frontier Drive Extension, Staff Analysis of the Public Hearing and Staff Recommendations ("Franconia-Springfield Staff Report") (Attachment B), was presented to the public for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, The final draft of the Franconia-Springfield Staff Report includes (i) staff's recommendations that were presented to the public for review and comment on February 15, 2023, and (ii) the comments received during the public comment period; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-44 authorized staff to hold a public hearing on proposed plans to (i) reduce the total Park & Ride parking spaces from 2,009 spaces to a minimum of 1,200 spaces; (ii) reduce the total metered Kiss & Ride parking spaces from 64 parking spaces to approximately 20 spaces; and (iii) eliminate the 68 metered parking spaces located along Metro Access Road at West Falls Church Metro Station; and

WHEREAS, A report on the results of the public outreach and public hearing regarding the proposed plans at West Falls Church Metro Station entitled *Compact Public Hearing Staff Report, West Falls Church Metro Station Joint Development Project – Replacement Facilities, Staff Analysis of the Public Hearing and Staff Recommendations* ("West Falls Church Staff Report") (Attachment C), was presented to the public for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, The final draft of the West Falls Church Staff Report includes (i) staff's recommendations that were presented to the public for review and comment on February 16, 2023, and (ii) the comments received during the public comment period; and

WHEREAS, The proposed plans for East Falls Church, Franconia-Springfield, and West Falls Church Metro Stations require changes to the Mass Transit Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, The Board of Directors approves the *Compact Public Hearing Staff Report, East Falls Church Metro Station Bus Loop Expansion Project, Staff Analysis of the Public Hearing and Staff Recommendations*, as set forth in Attachment A; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors amends the Mass Transit Plan to (i) add three bus bays, (ii) narrow the pedestrian crossing to the bus loop, and (iii) relocate the ADA spaces in the Park & Ride facility at East Falls Church Metro Station, as set forth in Attachment A; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Board of Directors approves the *Compact Public Hearing Staff Report, Franconia-Springfield Metro Station Frontier Drive Extension, Staff Analysis of the Public Hearing and Staff Recommendations*, as set forth in Attachment B; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors amends the Mass Transit Plan to (i) add two new or reconfigured intersections; (ii) add three additional bus bays; (iii) add a new bus layover area; and (iv) eliminate the pick-up/drop-off area at Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, as set forth in Attachment B; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Board of Directors approves the *Compact Public Hearing Staff Report, West Falls Church Metro Station Joint Development Project – Replacement Facilities, Staff Analysis of the Public Hearing and Staff Recommendations*, as set forth in Attachment C; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors amends the Mass Transit Plan to (i) reduce the total Park & Ride parking spaces from 2,009 spaces to a minimum of 1,200 spaces; (ii) reduce the total Kiss & Ride parking spaces from 64 parking spaces to approximately 20 spaces; and (iii) eliminate the 68 metered parking spaces located along Metro Access Road at West Falls Church Metro Station, as set forth in Attachment C; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall be effective 30 days after adoption in accordance with Compact Section 8(b).

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,

/s/

Patricia Y. Lee

Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer
and General Counsel

WMATA File Structure No.:

12.7.2 Master Plans/Mass Transit Plan (including transit zone modifications)

Finance and Capital Committee

March 3, 2023



Staff Reports

- [East Falls Church](#)
- [Franconia-Springfield](#)
- [West Falls Church](#)