



Capital & Strategic Planning Committee

Item III - B

January 11, 2018

**Approval of Public Hearing Staff Report:
Changes to WMATA Facilities for Purple Line**

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Board Action/Information Summary

☒ Action ☐ Information

MEAD Number:
201948

Resolution:
☒ Yes ☐ No

TITLE:

Purple Line Approvals

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Seeks Board approval for the Purple Line changes to Metro facilities

PURPOSE:

Obtain Board approval of:

- Public Hearing Staff Report & Supplement
- Amendment of Adopted Regional System (ARS)

DESCRIPTION:

Key Highlights:

The Purple Line is a State of Maryland Project that travels between Prince George's County and Montgomery County and connects to four Metro Stations along the way.

Background and History:

The Purple Line is intended to provide additional transit to communities inside the Capital Beltway in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and to improve connectivity to the Metro Rail System.

Discussion:

The alignment of the Purple Line connects to four Metro Rail Stations; New Carrollton, College Park, Silver Spring and Bethesda. Three of the connections make changes to the stations that are of a nature that the Compact requires the holding of a Public Hearing. At the Silver Spring and Bethesda Stations new entrances are to be built which triggers the need to hold a Public Hearing. At New Carrollton Station the Purple Line Station will eliminate 600 parking spaces. As part of the compensation for the loss of parking, WMATA may receive a state-owned parking lot that has approximately 450 spaces. The loss of existing parking and the potential for the replacement parking requires the holding of a Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing was held at the Jackson Graham Building on December 5, 2017. One person testified and there were three hundred six (306) electronic submissions

provided during the comment period that closed 10 days after the Public Hearing. No local/state/federal agencies provided comments. The comments were reviewed and WMATA Staff prepared a response for each comment. The comments and responses were assembled into a document labeled the Public Hearing Staff Report (PHSR). The PHSR was published for public review and three (3) comments were received on that document. The attached Public Hearing Staff Report Supplement addresses the three (3) most recent comments and also includes WMATA Staff recommendations. The Staff Recommendations are that the Board approve the Public Hearing Staff Report and the Public Hearing Staff Report Supplement and amend the Adopted Regional System to reflect changes to three (3) Metro Rail Stations; New Carrollton, Silver Spring and Bethesda as originally proposed by the Purple Line.

FUNDING IMPACT:

This recommended action has no direct impact on funding requirements.	
Project Manager:	John Thomas
Project Department/Office:	COO/DECO

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	October of 2017 – Board approval to conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed changes to the Metro Rail system due to the Purple Line. February 2018
Anticipated actions after presentation	February of 2018 – Staff finalizes real estate permits associated with changes to the Metro Rail system to allow construction to commence.

RECOMMENDATION:

Board approve:

- Public Hearing Staff Report & Supplement
- Amendment of Adopted Regional System (ARS)



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Approvals for the Purple Line Changes to WMATA Rail Facilities

Capital and Strategic Planning Committee

January 11, 2018



Purpose

Obtain board approval of:

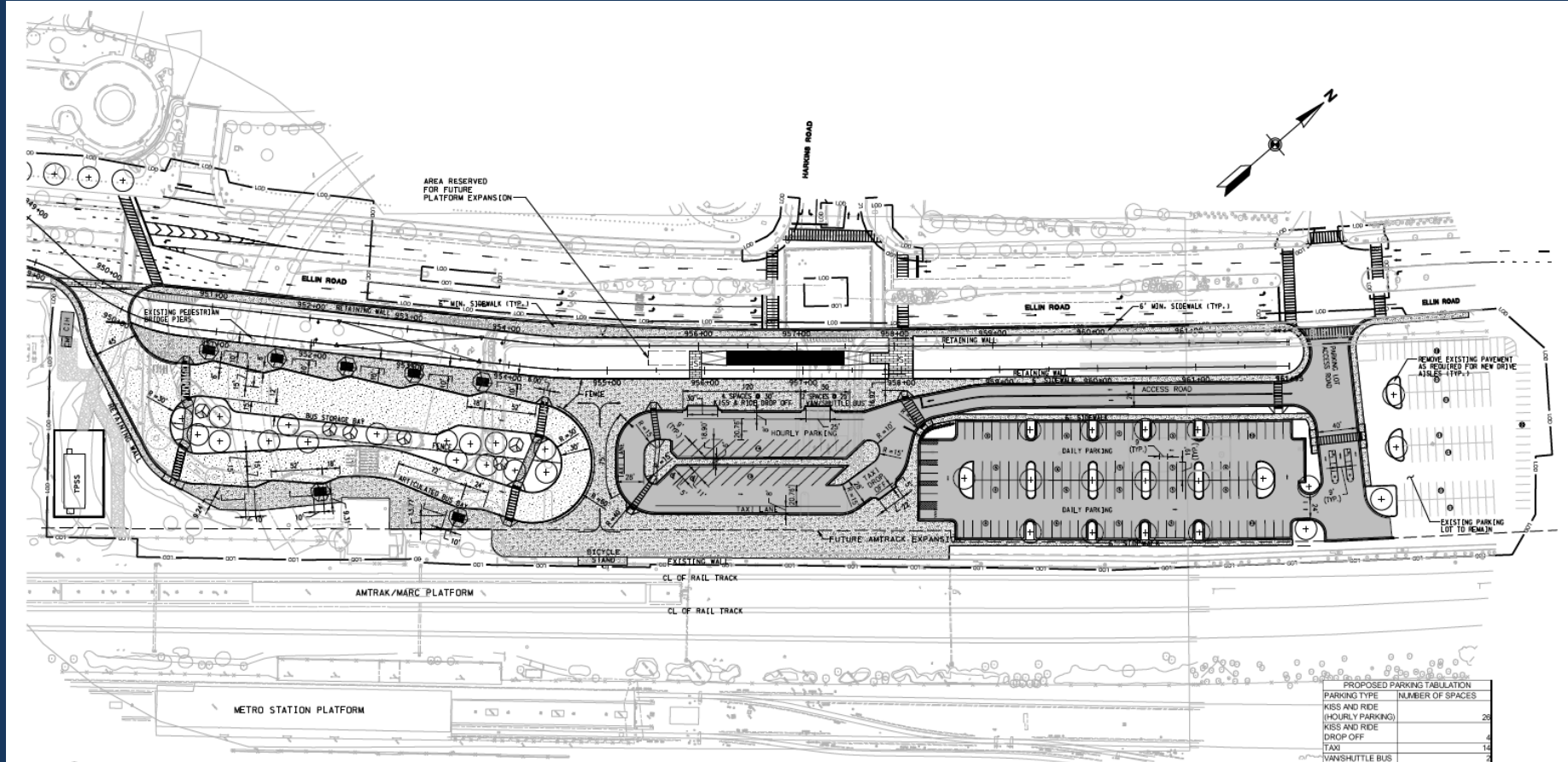
- Final Public Hearing Staff Report
- Amendment of the Adopted Regional System (ARS)



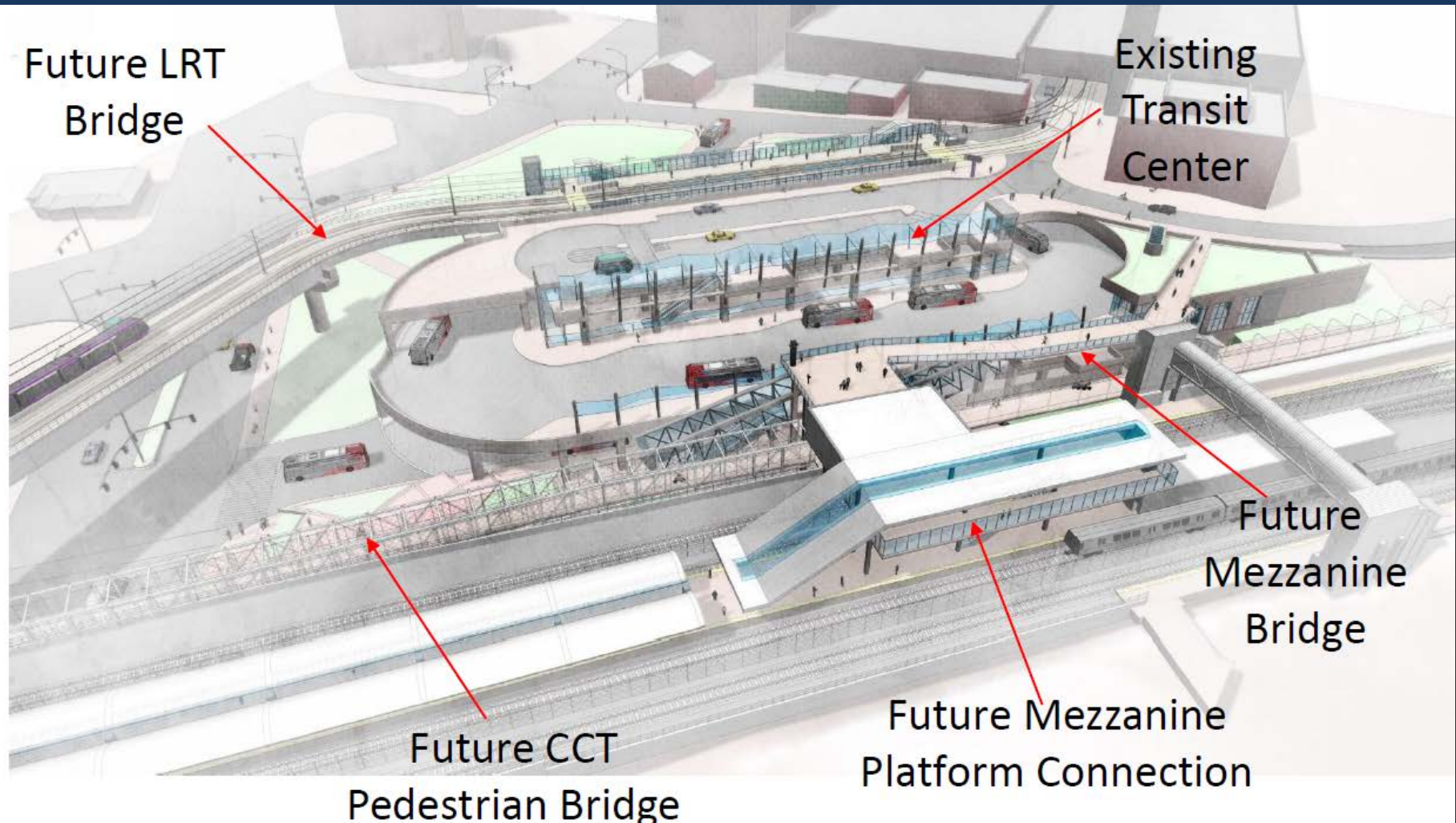
Background

- Purple Line travels between New Carrollton and Bethesda and connects with Metrorail system at four locations:
 - New Carrollton
 - College Park
 - Silver Spring
 - Bethesda
- Changes at three stations require Compact Public Hearing:
 - Bethesda and Silver Spring Stations will be modified to add second entrances
 - New Carrollton Station will see a reduction in parking

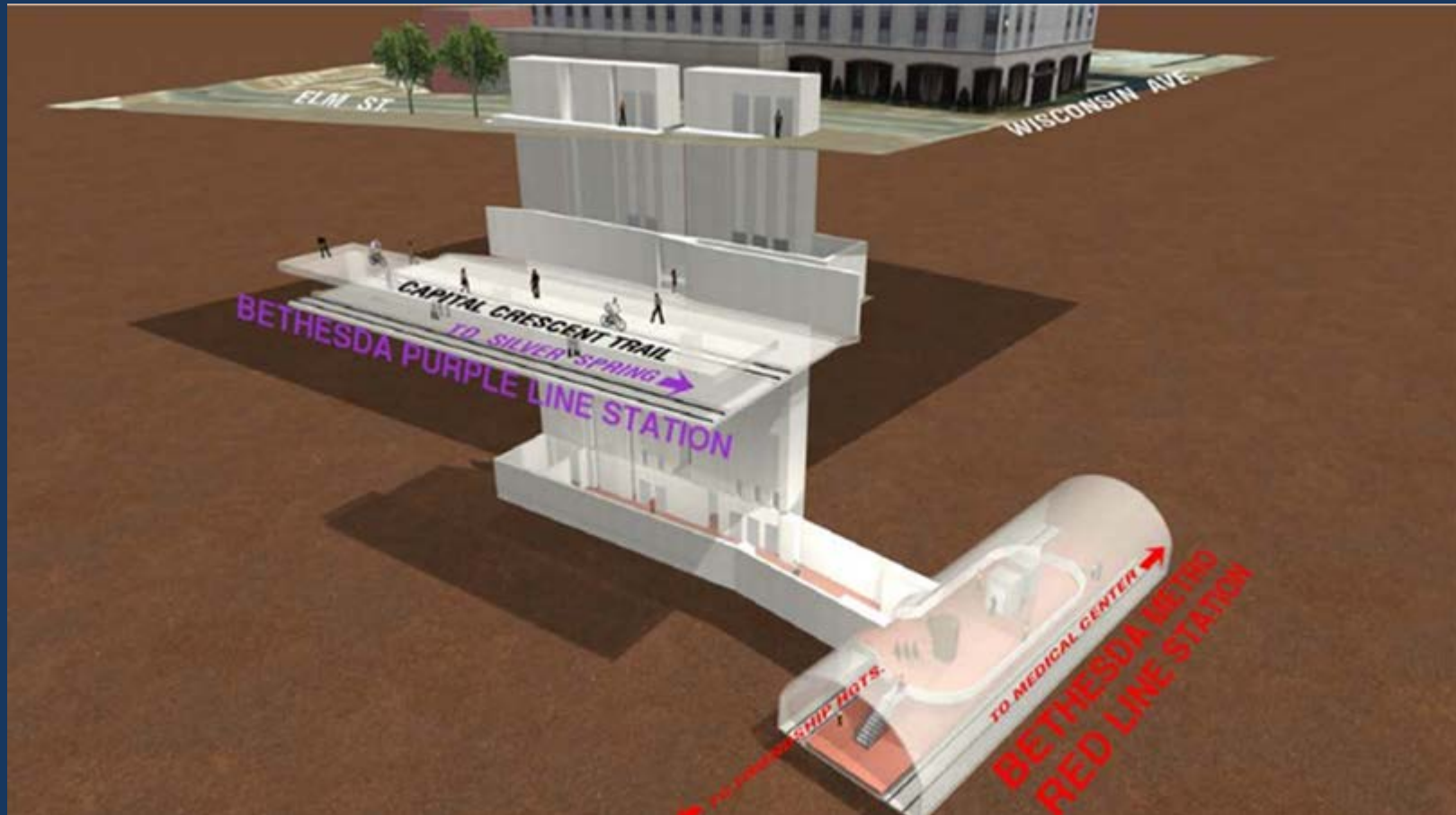
New Carrollton



Silver Spring



Bethesda





Public Hearing

- Public Hearing was held on December 5, 2017
- One person testified at Public Hearing
- 300 people sent comments during the comment period
- No local/state/federal agencies provided feedback
- Feedback and responses were included in Public Hearing Staff Report
- Three people submitted comments on Public Hearing Staff Report
- Public Hearing Staff Report Supplement addresses most relevant comments and includes staff recommendations



Comments By Topic

Issue	Support changes	Oppose changes	Other Concerns (No. of Comments)
All Changes	24	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fare Media (4) System Changes (2) Restrooms (1) Wayfinding (1)
Changes to Bethesda Metrorail Station	55	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayfinding (2) Stairs (3) Connections (13) Cyclists (5) Construction Impacts (6) Other (11)
Changes to Silver Spring Metrorail Station	35	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connections (18) Wayfinding (2) MARC Connection (2) Other (9) Construction Impacts (6)
Changes to New Carrollton Metrorail station	3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other (14) Construction Impacts (1)
Parking Space Removal at New Carrollton	5	51	
Other Comments			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of Information, adequacy of information, and survey style (10) Availability of Information (1) Public hearing process (1) Unrelated comments (2)



Recommendation

Board approve:

- Final Public Hearing Staff Report
- Amendment of the Adopted Regional System (ARS)

SUBJECT: APPROVALS FOR CHANGES TO THE BETHESDA, SILVER SPRING AND NEW CARROLLTON METRORAIL STATIONS

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

WHEREAS, Compact Section 15 requires the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board of Directors to transmit proposed changes to the Mass Transit Plan (MTP) to certain enumerated agencies and to conduct a public hearing before a MTP is adopted, altered, revised or amended; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has adopted a series of resolutions, after appropriate public hearings, to amend or otherwise change mass transit plans as part of a coordinated Adopted Regional System (ARS); and

WHEREAS, The Purple Line Light Rail Project (Project), a 16-mile light rail line between Bethesda in Montgomery County and New Carrollton in Prince George's County sponsored, funded, constructed and operated by, or on behalf of the State of Maryland via the Maryland Transit Administration, will require changes to WMATA facilities including new entrances at Bethesda and Silver Spring Stations and reduced parking at New Carrollton Station all of which constitute changes to the MTP; and

WHEREAS, On October 26, 2017, the Board of Directors approved holding a public hearing; on December 5, 2017, the public hearing was held, followed by a comment period that closed on December 15, 2017; and on December 20, 2017, a report on the public hearing entitled: *Public Hearing Staff Report, Staff Analysis of the Public Hearing and Staff Recommendations, Proposed Changes to WMATA Facilities at Bethesda, Silver Spring, and New Carrollton Metro Stations Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland Hearing No. 616, Docket No. R17-02* (the Draft Staff Report) was publicized for comment; and on January 3, 2018, the comment period for the Draft Staff Report closed; and

WHEREAS, Staff has reviewed the comments on the Draft Staff Report and has proposed *The Public Hearing Staff Report Supplement* including a recommendation to proceed with the addition of new entrances at Bethesda and Silver Spring Stations and reduce parking at New Carrollton Station; NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors hereby approves the *Public Hearing Staff Report, Staff Analysis of the Public Hearing and Staff Recommendations, Proposed Changes to WMATA Facilities at Bethesda, Silver Spring, and New Carrollton Metro Stations Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland Hearing No. 616, Docket No. R17-02* and *The Public Hearing Staff Report Supplement*; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors amends the MTP and the ARS to add new entrances at Bethesda and Silver Spring Stations and reduce parking at New Carrollton Station; and be it finally

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

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



Patricia Y. Lee
General Counsel

WMATA File Structure No.:
18.8 Public Hearings and Meetings