



## Accessibility Advisory Committee

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Dear Chair Evans and Members of the Board,

It is my pleasure to present you with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) report for the month of April 2017. The primary issues we reviewed were Silver Line Phase II, and station lighting and maintenance.

### **Issue of the Month**

#### Silver Line Phase II Project

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) provided an update on Metro's new Silver Line Metrorail stations. Metro's Silver Line is a 23-mile extension that branches off the existing Orange Line after the East Falls Church Station. In July 2014, Metro opened the first phase of the Silver Line with five new stations.

In the second phase, Metro will add the following six rail stations: Reston Town Center, Herndon, Innovation Center, Dulles Airport, Loudoun Gateway, and Ashburn, carrying the rail system into Loudoun County. The six new stations will be carbon copies of the stations in the first phase including features like the covered pedestrian bridges, dual elevators and escalators, and easy access to public restrooms. Additionally, the second phase will include a Metro rail yard and maintenance facility. The new facility will be the largest rail yard and maintenance facility in the Metro system. It is anticipated that construction on the second phase of the Dulles Metrorail project will be completed in 2020.

The AAC is excited about the next phase of the Silver Line. Although the AAC would like to see more parking at stations in the second phase of the project, the Committee expects that the new stations will make life easier for all customers including those with disabilities.

#### Station Lighting and Maintenance - Update

Metro's Office of Capital Program Delivery (CPD) and the Office of System Maintenance (SMNT) provided an update on station lighting improvements and maintenance in the stations.

CPD has made lighting improvements at all underground mezzanines with the exception of Anacostia, Farragut North, Forest Glen, Stadium-Armory, and Wheaton. It is expected that all mezzanines will be completed by the end of FY 2017. CPD has also completed the design phase for platform lighting improvements at the underground rail stations, and those lighting improvements are scheduled to begin in FY2018.

Metro has also worked to improve lighting maintenance. SMNT has been working to replace aged equipment with standard fixtures until a full replacement is done. This interim process ensures effective lighting is maintained in the stations until replacement work can be performed. Because lighting levels can drop due to dust accumulating on the fixture covers, the AAC encourages Metro to pay close attention to this issue because it can greatly impact travel for customers in the low-vision community. The AAC along with the National Capital Citizens with Low-Vision emphasized that bulb replacement and adequate illumination are critical to station illumination for access and safety. Timely replacement is the key. One critical issue where it is important to involve people with disabilities is any plan to repaint stations with white paint since it may present serious issues with glare and wash out any contrast.

The AAC appreciates Metro's efforts to improve lighting throughout the system. The AAC recommends that Metro add lighting near the stairways, and include stair path markings to make navigating the system easier for all customers. The AAC also encourages Metro to continue to involve people with disabilities in lighting improvements in the system.

Sincerely,



Patrick Sheehan  
Chair