

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

☒ Action ☐ Information

MEAD Number:
203437

Resolution:
☒ Yes ☐ No

TITLE:

Potomac Yard Reimbursable Project Acceptance

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

This presentation outlines the process for delegating to the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer (GM and CEO) the authority to set an opening date for the Potomac Yard Metrorail station, which will provide a new in-fill station option to riders on the Blue and Yellow lines traveling to the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

PURPOSE:

To provide the Board an update on Potomac Yard station. Staff is recommending that the Board delegate to the GM and CEO authority to set a date for the start of passenger service at such time as a determination has been made that all readiness conditions have been met. The Board previously approved amending the Adopted Regional System (ARS) in Resolution 2015-62.

DESCRIPTION:

For conflicts of interest purposes, please note the following interested parties associated with the Potomac Yard Reimbursable Project Agreement: **City of Alexandria; Potomac Yard Constructors — a joint venture between Halmar International and Schiavone Construction Co.**

Key Highlights:

- The Potomac Yard project includes a station headhouse with a 600 foot platform, 3,750 feet of new/realigned track, two entrance pavilions, 1000 feet of pedestrian bridges, a stone retaining wall facing George Washington Memorial Parkway, and restoration of community amenities.
- The Board previously approved amending the Adopted Regional System (ARS) to include Potomac Yard Metrorail Station in December 2015.
- WMATA completed an 8-week service outage from September 10 to November 6, 2022 to connect the new station to the existing system.
- Connecting the new station to the existing system took three weeks of complex grading work to bring new tracks to the required elevation and five weeks of system testing and train performance demonstrations.

- Trains began bypassing the station on November 6, 2022.
- The Board has reviewed the Title VI equity analysis of relevant rail service changes for the FY2024 budget and determined that the Potomac Yard station project does not have a disparate impact on minority customers nor a disproportionate burden on low-income riders.

Background and History:

The Potomac Yard Metrorail Station reimbursable project agreement was first authorized by the Board in 2009. Over time the budget was amended in 2010, 2018, 2020, and 2021 as the project developed from concept to planning to construction. The station will provide facility to accommodate the growing transportation demand in the Route 1 corridor to include a walkable mixed-use community.

Discussion:

Metro completed the tie in to connect the new station to the existing system on November 6, 2022. Metro has begun all required readiness conditions needed for final certification and accepted. Key activities include items such as:

- Staff and First Responder Familiarization: Conduct staff orientation, execute emergency exercises, establish access controls, and conduct first responder training.
- Final Documents: Complete Safety Certification.
- Policy and Procedure Updates: Update maintenance policies, update standard operating procedures, operational systems, and training.
- Title VI: FTA Title VI requires transit agencies to conduct an equity analysis of a New Start project at least six months before the beginning of revenue operations. Based on the equity analysis, Metro staff determined that the Potomac Yard Station project does not result in a disparate impact on minority riders or disproportionate burden on low-income riders.

FUNDING IMPACT:

The Potomac Yard reimbursable agreement is funded by the City of Alexandria.	
Project Manager:	Fred Robertson
Project Department/Office:	Infrastructure/Project Delivery

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	February 2009 - Amended Fiscal 2009 Reimbursable Projects' Budget for Potomac Yard Station Project
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	<p>September 2010 - Amended the Budget for the Potomac Yard Station Project</p> <p>April 2018 - Increased Funding for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Reimbursable Project</p> <p>May 2020 - Amended Fiscal Year 2021-2026 Potomac Yard Reimbursable Project Budget and Potomac Yard Reimbursable Agreement</p> <p>March 2021 - Amended Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget and Authorized the Negotiation or Competitive Sale of the Series 2021A Dedicated Funding Bonds</p>
Anticipated actions after presentation	Additional action may be required to further increase the project budget for close out of contractor claims

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that, subject to satisfaction of the Conditions for WMATA to receive notification that the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission or the Federal Transit Administration has identified any unacceptable hazardous conditions as part of the pre-revenue service review, the Board authorizes the GM and CEO to determine a revenue service date for Potomac Yard Metrorail station.

SUBJECT: DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A REVENUE SERVICE DATE FOR
POTOMAC YARD STATION

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

WHEREAS, On February 29, 2009, the Board of Directors approved establishing a reimbursable project for the Potomac Yard Station (Res. 2009-22); and

WHEREAS, On December 17, 2015, the Board approved amending the Adopted Regional System to include a new Potomac Yard Station (Res. 2015-62); and

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2018, the Board authorized the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer to enter into an amended and restated reimbursable agreement with the City of Alexandria for the construction of the Potomac Yard Station (Res. 2018-17); and

WHEREAS, On April 14, 2023, the Board reviewed the Title VI equity analysis of rail service increases for the FY 2024 budget, including Potomac Yard Station, and adopted the staff's conclusion that the Potomac Yard Station does not have a disparate impact on minority riders nor a disproportionate burden on low-income riders (Res. 2023-08); and

WHEREAS, The construction of the Potomac Yard Station is near completion and staff anticipates that the station will be ready for passenger service in May 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors, subject to WMATA not having received notification that the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission or the Federal Transit Administration has identified any unacceptable hazardous conditions as part of the pre-revenue service review, authorizes the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer to determine a revenue service date for the Potomac Yard Station; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That to allow staff to timely prepare for a revenue service date, this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,

Patricia Y. Lee
Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and
General Counsel

WMATA File Structure No.:
20.5 Rail Service Planning