

PUBLIC HEARING STAFF REPORT

STAFF ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

**PROPOSED MTPD DISTRICT II SUBSTATION AND TRAINING
FACILITY
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

Hearing No. 562
Docket No. R11-01
July 20, 2011

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
(WMATA)



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WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEARING STAFF REPORT
REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS
PROPOSED MTPD DISTRICT II SUBSTATION AND TRAINING FACILITY
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA
HEARING NO. 562
DOCKET NO. R11-01

This report presents the staff analysis of the public hearing held on July 20, 2011, including material submitted for the public hearing record. Included in this report are recommendations from various WMATA staff concerning construction of the proposed MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility. Included in this report are the following sections:

1. Background
2. Summary of the Public Hearing
3. Summary of the Staff Presentation
4. Supplemental Correspondence Submitted for the Record
5. Compact Article VI Section 15 - Other Agency Review and Comments
6. Responses to Comments Received for the Record
7. Summary and Staff Recommendations

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1. BACKGROUND

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is considering construction of a new police station (District II Substation) and training facility for the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) at 6770 Frontier Drive in Springfield, Virginia. The WMATA Blue Line and CSX rail tracks are located in the southeast section of the study area and the Joseph Alexander Transportation Center (Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station) is located on the eastern portion of the study area. **Figure 1** shows the site location.

The proposed project was included in the Capital Needs Inventory and approved in both the FY11-16 Capital Improvements Plan and the proposed FY12-17 Capital Improvements Plan.

1.1 Proposed Action

The proposed facilities would include both a three-story administration/police station as well as a single-story training facility. The police station would include administration offices, training rooms, evidence storage and crime scene work areas, and support areas including a gym and locker rooms. The training facility would include a firing range that would accommodate up to 24 simultaneous users, weapons cleaning and storage areas, administration areas, and conference rooms and classrooms. The combined facility would include surface parking for up to 140 vehicles. Primary access to the site would be from Joseph Alexander Road through the southeastern portion of the property.

If approved by the WMATA Board of Directors at the conclusion of the public hearing process, construction would begin in the first quarter of 2012, with completion in the third quarter of 2013.

1.2 Documented Categorical Exclusion and General Plans

As part of its project approval process, WMATA prepared a Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) and General Plans. These documents were made available to provide the public, local governments, and environmental agencies with a description of the potential effects of the proposed MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility upon the human and natural environment. The DCE and General Plans were available online at:

http://www.wmata.com/community_outreach/R11-01_landing/R11-01_landing.cfm

The documents were available for inspection during normal business hours at the following locations:

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Office of the Secretary
600 Fifth Street, NW, Room 2D-209
Washington, DC 20001
202-962-2511

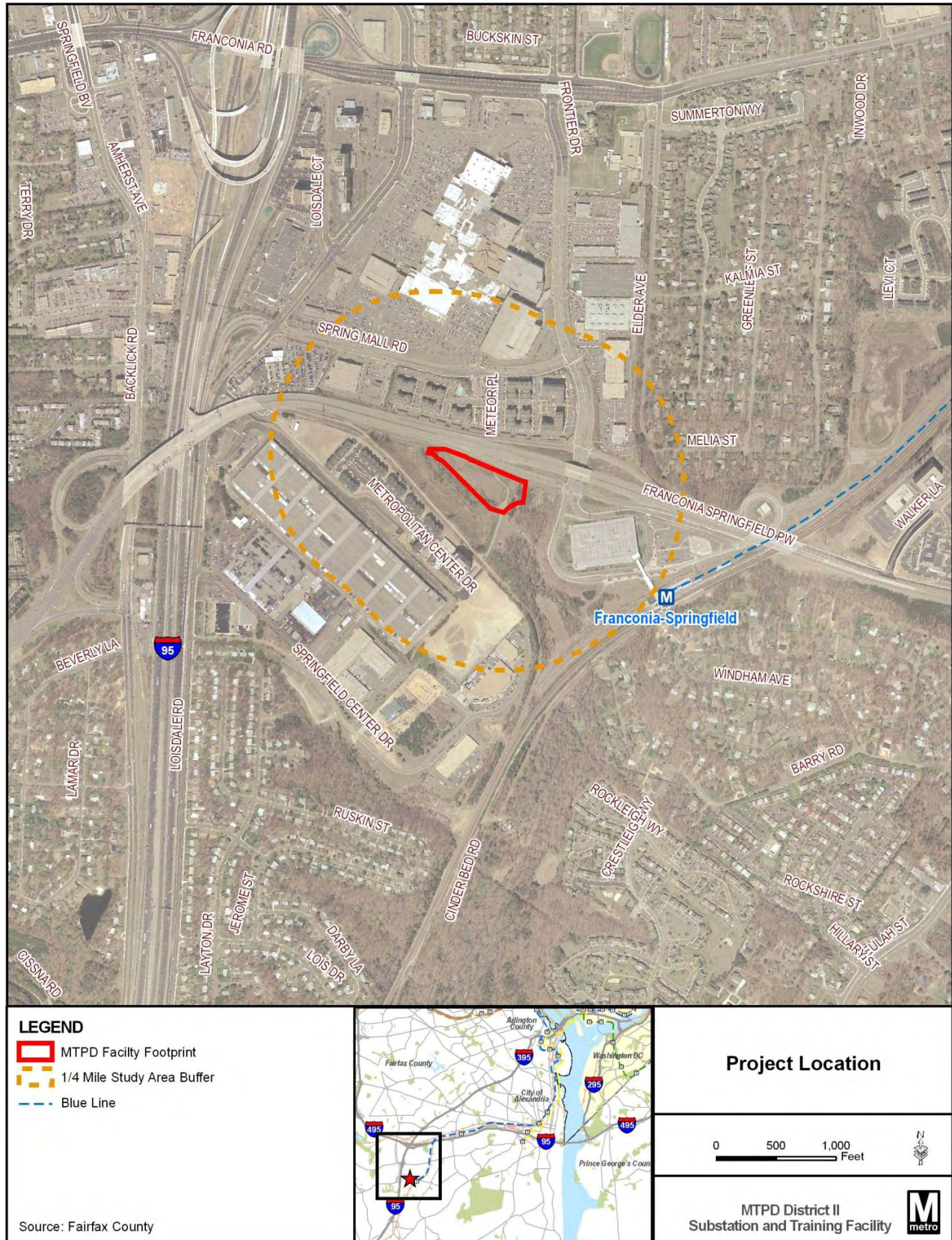
Franconia Governmental Center

Lee District Supervisor Offices
6121 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310
703-971-6262

John Marshall Branch Library

6209 Rose Hill Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310
703-971-0010

Figure 1: Project Location





2. SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2011, at Robert E. Lee High School, at 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, Virginia, 22150. The hearing was chaired by WMATA Board of Directors Member Jeffrey McKay, and was convened at 7:00 P.M. Six people were in attendance in addition to WMATA staff.

Mr. Jeff McKay, Lee District Supervisor, made the opening statement, followed by the WMATA staff presentation given by Mr. John Thomas. The staff presentation is summarized in Section 3 of this report.

The background and supporting documentation included the following:

- Copies of the Notice of Public Hearing
- Copies of the Documented Categorical Exclusion
- Copies of the General Plans

The following individuals testified at the hearing:

- Ms. Mary Bryant

The Public Hearing closed at 7:11 P.M.

3. SUMMARY OF THE STAFF PRESENTATION

Mr. Thomas began the presentation by stating that WMATA is considering construction of a new police station (District II Substation) and training facility for the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) located at 6770 Frontier Drive in Springfield, Virginia, at the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station.

He continued the presentation with a description of the facilities, which would consist of a three-story police station building and a single-story training facility. He then showed three perspective images of the proposed facility from Metropolitan Drive, Franconia-Springfield Parkway, and from the parking deck of the Springfield Crossing Apartments.

A copy of the presentation is provided in Appendix C.

4. SUPPLEMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The Public Hearing record remained open until August 1, 2011. No correspondence was received.

5. COMPACT ARTICLE VI, SECTION 15 - OTHER AGENCY REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Copies of the Notice of Public Hearing were sent to relevant federal, state, regional and local agencies. A copy of the Notice of Public Hearing is provided in Appendix A. No correspondence was received for the Public Hearing record.

6. RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR THE RECORD

One person, Ms. Mary Bryant, president of the Springfield Forest Citizens Association, spoke at the hearing. The issue she spoke about is addressed in this section.

6.1 Issue: Noise Disturbance

Noise

M. Bryant *[Springfield Forest is located in an area that's just northeast of the proposed substation and training facility. This is a community of approximately 220 single-family homes with a large percentage of original residents, many of them now retired and a newer -- a few newer arrivals with young children.*

Our community has no objection to the construction of a police station and a training facility for the Metro Transit Police Department.

That being said, our main concern is the addition of the firing lanes for the necessary annual certification of weapons for the Metro Transit Police.

As indicated in the proposal that was sent to our community, this 33,000 square foot training facility would include 24 firing lanes, weapons cleaning and storage areas.

As I stated before, the majority of our residents are now retired senior citizens and we object to any noise which may be heard in our community from this firing range. Being senior citizens, they have earned the right to sleep in late and go to bed early.

This being said, our newer residents with young children need the consideration of the children's nap time.

Any noise from this firing range into our neighborhood would be a hardship upon our residents.

As an alternative proposal, we would suggest that due to the fact that the training and the re-certification is now being conducted at facilities owned by other jurisdictions that they would continue to use those facilities strictly for the firearms training.

Secondly, if the firing range portion of the training facility is approved, we would request that Fairfax County require that this training facility be totally enclosed with concrete and be completely noise proof. This, of course, being the least desirable alternative to our community and our residents.]

A copy of the Public Hearing Transcript is provided in Appendix B.

Summary

The commenter expressed concern that the firing range would generate increased noise and disturb nearby residents (particularly disturbing retirees and small children).

Response

The proposed training facility will be fully enclosed to mitigate noise from firearms training. The facility will be modeled on similar facilities, and sound from the facility will not be audible at nearby residences.

For more information on noise impact, please refer to Appendix 4 of the Documented Categorical Exclusion, Noise Impact Analysis Technical Memorandum, available at: http://www.wmata.com/community_outreach/R11-01_landing/R11-01_landing.cfm.



7. SUMMARY AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary

The staff has considered the oral testimony and written correspondence received from the Public Hearing record. This information is summarized in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Summary of Comments

Section	Issue	No. of Commenters	Names
6.1	Concerns about noise disturbance for nearby residents due to the fire arms training facility.	1	M. Bryant

7.2 Staff Recommendations

Based on the analysis conducted and public and agency input, WMATA staff recommends advancing with design and construction of the MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility.

WMATA will design and construct the facility to mitigate noise from firearms training. No sound from firearms training is expected to be audible at nearby residences.



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Appendix A: Notice of Public Hearing



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Notice of Public Hearing
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Proposed MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility
6770 Frontier Drive
Springfield, VA 22150
Docket R11-01

Purpose

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on a proposed new police substation and training facility at 6770 Frontier Drive, Springfield, VA as follows:

Hearing No. 562
Wednesday, July 20, 2011
Robert E. Lee High School
6540 Franconia Road
Springfield, VA 22150
(Fairfax Connector Routes 310, 331, 332, 401)

Hearing scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.
Open house at 6:30 p.m.

This location is wheelchair accessible. Any individual who requires special assistance such as a sign language interpreter or additional accommodation to participate in the public hearing, or who requires these materials in an alternate format, should contact Danise Peña at 202-962-2511 or TTY: 202-638-3780 as soon as possible in order for Metro to make necessary arrangements.

For more information please visit
wmata.com/hearings

PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) regarding the Documented Categorical Exclusion and plans for the proposed new police substation and training facility at 6770 Frontier Drive in Springfield, Virginia. At the hearing, WMATA will receive and consider public comments and suggestions about the proposal. The proposed design concepts may change as a result of this hearing.

REFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

The Documented Categorical Exclusion and plans for the proposed new police substation and training facility are available online at wmata.com/hearings and may be inspected during normal business hours at the following locations beginning Tuesday, June 21, 2011:

WMATA
Office of the Secretary
600 Fifth Street, NW, Room 2D-209
Washington, DC 20001
202-962-2511
(Please call in advance to coordinate)

Franconia Governmental Center
Lee District Supervisor Offices
6121 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310
703-971-6262

WHAT IS PROPOSED

Metro proposes construction of a police station (District II substation) and training facility for the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD). The facilities would consist of a three-story administration/police station building and a single story training facility with a roof top mechanical room.

The three-story police station would be a replacement for the current facility at Huntington. The building would contain approximately 23,000 square feet of space consisting of administration offices, training rooms, evidence storage, crime scene work areas, and support areas, including a gym and locker rooms.

The Metro Transit Police are required to certify with weapons on an annual basis. Currently, training is conducted at facilities owned by other jurisdictions. A WMATA-owned facility would save the costs of renting those facilities. The approximately 33,000 square foot training facility would include 24 firing lanes, weapons cleaning and storage areas, administration areas, and conference rooms and classrooms.

WMATA COMPACT REQUIREMENTS

WMATA's Compact requires that the Board, in amending the mass transit plan, consider current and prospective conditions in the transit zone should the project be built. The transit zone includes the Springfield/Franconia area around the site and considerations include, without limitation, land use, population, economic factors affecting development plans, existing and proposed transportation and transit facilities, any dislocation of families or businesses; preservation of the beauty and dignity of the DC Metro Area; factors affecting environmental amenities and aesthetics, and financial resources. The mass transit plan encompasses, among other things, transit facilities to be provided by WMATA, including stations and parking facilities, and the character, nature, design, location and capital and operating cost thereof. The mass transit plan, in addition to designating the design and location of transit facilities, also provides for capital and operating expenses, as well as "various other factors and considerations, which, in the opinion of the Board, justify and require the projects therein proposed" all as more particularly set forth in WMATA's Compact.

A Documented Categorical Exclusion was prepared by WMATA to provide the environmental documentation required under the WMATA Compact, as well as by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This document, along with a more detailed description of the project proposal, is available for public review at the locations indicated in the reference materials section above.

HOW TO REGISTER TO SPEAK AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to the proposal will be afforded the opportunity to present their views and make supporting statements and to offer alternative proposals. In order to establish a witness list, individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to be heard at the public hearing are requested to furnish in writing their name and organization affiliation, if any, via email to speak@wmata.com. The request may also be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Alternatively, you may fax this information to 202-962-1133. Please submit only one speaker's name per letter. Lists of individual speakers will not be accepted. Please note that this information may be releasable to the public under the WMATA Public Access to Records Policy (PARP). The PARP can be viewed on WMATA's website at wmata.com/about_metro/public_rr.cfm under the link marked "Legal Affairs". Public officials will be heard first and will be allowed five minutes each to make their presentations. All others will be allowed three minutes each. Relinquishing of time by one speaker to another will not be permitted.

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Written statements and exhibits must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, August 1, 2011 by the Office of the Secretary and may be emailed to writtentestimony@wmata.com. They may also be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area



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Appendix B: Public Hearing Transcript



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WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED MTPD DISTRICT II
SUBSTATION AND TRAINING FACILITY,
6770 FRONTIER DRIVE, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150
DOCKET R11-01

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WEDNESDAY
JULY 20, 2011

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The hearing came to order in Robert E. Lee High School, 6540
Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150 at 7:00 p.m., Jeff McKay,
Member of the Board of Directors, presiding.

PRESENT

JEFFREY MCKAY, Member of the Board of
Directors

JOHN THOMAS, Project Manager



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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

6:59 p.m.

MR. MCKAY: I'm going to go ahead and call this meeting to order. For those of you who don't already know me, I'm Jeff McKay, Member of the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority better known as Metro and equally if not more important, I also represent this area of Lee District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

We have several members of Metro staff here this evening. I'd like to introduce a few of them so that you know who's with us. Is Deputy Chief Ron Pavlik?

DEPUTY CHIEF PAVLIK: Here.

MR. MCKAY: Thank you, sir. Ron is with the Metropolitan Transit Authority Police Department.

Sitting to my left is John Thomas, the Project Manager for WMATA and Jim Ashe, Manager for Environmental Planning, is sitting out here with the audience.

To my right is the Board Secretary Loyda who is also helping record the public information that's received tonight.

This hearing is convened to receive comments from the public regarding the documented categorical exclusion and general plans for the proposed new District II Police Headquarters and a training facility to be located at 6770



Frontier Drive in Springfield, Virginia.

These documents are available for inspection in the back of the room if you haven't already received those.

Notice of this hearing was made public by publication in the Washington Post and posted on wmata.com as well as outreach for my district supervisor's office to some of the surrounding neighborhoods as well as to the Lee District Land Use Committee through my office.

Briefly, I will cover the procedure that we will follow during tonight's hearing.

First, we will hear a staff statement on the proposal from WMATA.

Second, we will heard from any public officials who may arrive in the room.

Third, we will hear from those persons who registered in advance to speak at this public hearing. They will be heard in the order of registration and allowed three minutes each.

Finally, we will hear from anyone else present who did not register in advance, but indicates a desire to be heard and they will be allowed three minutes each as well.

How many folks here have already signed up to speak? Mary. Anyone else? Are there others wishing to speak?

Okay. We will hear from whoever would like to speak



this evening. It's a small meeting and so, please feel free to provide testimony, to ask questions that may come up.

Further testimony will be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 1st, 2011.

Testimony may be emailed as written testimony or may be emailed through wmata.com.

Alternatively, statements may be faxed to 202-962-1133 or mailed to the Office of the Secretary, WMATA, 600 5th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. I'm sorry 20001.

Following review of all testimony received for the public hearing record, Metro staff will prepare a report on the public hearing for the Metro Board of Directors. Changes to the plan presented here tonight may be proposed in response to testimony received from you and subsequent staff analyses.

Your comments will become part of the public record that will be examined by the Metro Board of Directors.

Please note that the use of profanity will not be tolerated during this public hearing.

In addition, if you have not already done so, please silence all cell phone.

And since I know many of the people in the room, I'm obligated to say these things. So, I trust they're not necessary.



A verbatim transcript will be made of this hearing and a copy of the transcript when available may be reviewed at the Metro Headquarters Building or purchased from Neal R. Gross Court Reporters and Transcribers whose telephone number 202-234-4433.

With that being said, I will now turn it over to John Thomas to give a brief presentation on the proposal. John.

MR. THOMAS: Good evening. WMATA proposed construction of a new District II Police Substation and Training Facility for the Metro Transit Police Department.

The project will be located at 6770 Frontier Drive, Springfield, Virginia at the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station. The project site is bounded by Franconia-Springfield Parkway to the north, Joseph Alexander Road to the east and the Long Branch to the south. The WMATA Blue Line and CSX rail tracks are located in the southeast section of the study area and the Joseph Alexander Transportation Center (including the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station) is located on the eastern portion of the study area.

The facilities would consist of a three-story administration/police station building and a single-story training facility. The police station would include administration offices, training rooms, evidence storage and



crime scene work areas and support areas including a gym and locker rooms. The training facility would include a firing range that would accommodate 16 simultaneous users, weapons cleaning and storage areas, administration areas and conference rooms and classrooms. The combined facility would include surface parking for approximately 140 vehicles. Access to the site will be from Joseph Alexander Road through the southeastern portion of the property.

The next three slides show the perspective of the proposed facility from Metropolitan Drive, pause there for a second, from the Franconia-Springfield Parkway and lastly, from the parking deck of the Springfield Crossing Apartments.

This concludes the staff presentation.

MR. MCKAY: Thank you, John. We will now move to the public comment portion of the meeting.

We'll briefly review the public comment procedure. I will call your name to come forward to speak. If you would like to speak and have not signed up, please do so in the back of the room.

Please come forward when I call your name. You will have three minutes to speak.

Elected officials should any appear will be allowed five minutes.



There is a timer that will count down how much time you have left to speak. The red numbers to my right. It will give you a warning beep when you have 20 seconds left and will beep when your time is up.

Before you begin your remarks, please state your name and the organization, if any, that you represent.

With that being said, our first speaker is Mary Bryant and Mary is from the Springfield Forest Citizens Association. Mary.

MS. BRYANT: Good evening. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak at this public hearing.

As said, my name is Mary Bryant. I'm the President of the Springfield Forest Citizens Association.

Springfield Forest is located in an area that's just northeast of the proposed substation and training facility. This is a community of approximately 220 single-family homes with a large percentage of original residents, many of them now retired and a newer -- a few newer arrivals with young children.

Our community has no objection to the construction of a police station and a training facility for the Metro Transit Police Department.

That being said, our main concern is the addition of the firing lanes for the necessary annual certification of



weapons for the Metro Transit Police.

As indicated in the proposal that was sent to our community, this 33,000 square foot training facility would include 24 firing lanes, weapons cleaning and storage areas.

As I stated before, the majority of our residents are now retired senior citizens and we object to any noise which may be heard in our community from this firing range. Being senior citizens, they have earned the right to sleep in late and go to bed early.

This being said, our newer residents with young children need the consideration of the children's nap time.

Any noise from this firing range into our neighborhood would be a hardship upon our residents.

As an alternative proposal, we would suggest that due to the fact that the training and the re-certification is now being conducted at facilities owned by other jurisdictions that they would continue to use those facilities strictly for the firearms training.

Secondly, if the firing range portion of the training facility is approved, we would request that Fairfax County require that this training facility be totally enclosed with concrete and be completely noise proof. This, of course, being the least desirable alternative to our community and our



residents.

I thank you for your consideration of our request.

MR. MCKAY: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mary, for your testimony.

Are there others who would like to testify or speak on this matter? I'm not seeing any.

I would like to have a staff -- this is not normal. I understand, but I would like to have staff kind of explain in a little bit more detail the firing range and the soundproofing that would be entailed in the project if they could so that the citizens there are aware. The proposal is for an entirely enclosed firing range and I'm not sure, John, if you or Deputy Chief would like to respond.

But, will there be noise emanating at all from the building?

MR. THOMAS: The building will be concrete walls just as you described. They'll be architectural concrete so they look good as well as perform the function of being the exterior of the building, but also act as a sound barrier so no noise escapes from the building.

We haven't got into any detail of preliminary engineering yet, but we're going to model the facility after what we toured at the Federal Facility in Prince George's



County, the firing ranges they have there that are all enclosed and when we were there and there was firing going on, we could not hear any noise and we were within 50 feet of the buildings.

So, that's what our goal is here. Such that you won't know -- anybody outside of the facility would not know when any training was going on.

MR. MCKAY: Thank you, John, and I will add that it was commented earlier about Fairfax County requirements. This will require action and public hearing as well by the Fairfax County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. So, we'll be going to the Lee District Land Use Committee and ultimately to both boards I serve on, WMATA and the Board of Supervisors in Fairfax County who would also have to approve this application.

Are there any others that would like to testify?

Seeing and hearing none, that concludes the public testimony portion and the staff presentation.

I'd like to thank you all for coming, spending time with us and if you have any additional questions for me or staff, we will remain for a few minutes to answer those.

(Whereupon, at 7:11 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.)



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Appendix C: Presentation Materials



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Appendix C1: Presentation



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WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Proposed MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility

Public Hearing
July 20, 2011



MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility

Project Location



MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility

Site Plan



MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility



WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

View from Metropolitan Center Drive



MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility

View from Franconia Springfield Parkway



MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility



WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

View from the South Looking North (from Parking Deck)



MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility



How to Provide Comments

- At this hearing
- Written statements and exhibits must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, August 1, 2011, to

Office of the Secretary
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 Fifth Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20001.

or

e-mail to writtentestimony@wmata.com

Reference the Hearing and/or Docket Number [R11-1] in your submission.





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Appendix C2: Display Boards



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MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility



PUBLIC HEARING

July 20, 2011

WELCOME

Please Sign-in



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

PROJECT LOCATION



PERSPECTIVE VIEWS

VIEW FROM METROPOLITAN CENTER DRIVE



VIEW FROM FRANCONIA SPRINGFIELD PARKWAY



VIEW FROM THE SOUTH LOOKING NORTH (FROM PARKING DECK)



PROJECT CONTACTS AND SCHEDULE

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

- At this hearing.
- Written statements and exhibits must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, August 1, 2011, to

Office of the Secretary
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 Fifth Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20001

OR

E-mail to writtentestimony@wmata.com

Reference the Hearing and/or Docket Number [R11-1] in your submission.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Notice of Public Hearing – June 20, 2011
- **Public Hearing – July 20, 2011 (today)**
- WMATA Staff Report – August 2011
- WMATA Board Action – September 2011





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