

Washington Metropolitan
Area Transit Authority

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget & Communications

Erica Cunningham
Vice President, Community Relations & Outreach
Customer Experience & Engagement



FY2026 Budget & Proposals

FY26 Budget

Overview

The proposed FY2026 capital budget of \$2.4 billion and six-year capital improvement program of \$12.5 billion (both including revenue loss and debt service) include:

- Investment in ongoing projects
- Prioritized system preservation and renewal needs
- Investments to provide safe and efficient service delivery informed by asset management and reliability plans.

Proposed Metrobus Changes

Implement the 2025 Better Bus Network Redesign (wmata.com/betterbus).

Proposed MetroAccess Changes

Service will adhere to any expansion of rail or bus services.

Proposed Metrorail Changes

- Extend the **YL** to Greenbelt & every other train terminating at Mt Vernon Sq
- Split **SV** service between Downtown Largo and New Carrollton stations
- Operate additional **SV** trains during weekday peak hours
- Operate **RD** trains every four minutes during busiest portions of weekday rush periods
- Hours of Operation:
 - *Open one hour earlier at 6 a.m. Saturdays & Sundays*
 - *Close one hour later at 2 a.m. on Friday & Saturday nights*

Introduce Open Payment

Offer more payment options through an Open Payment fare system – Metrorail, Metrobus and parking facilities.

Use contactless credit/debit card, mobile wallet or linked smartwatch to pay the fare.



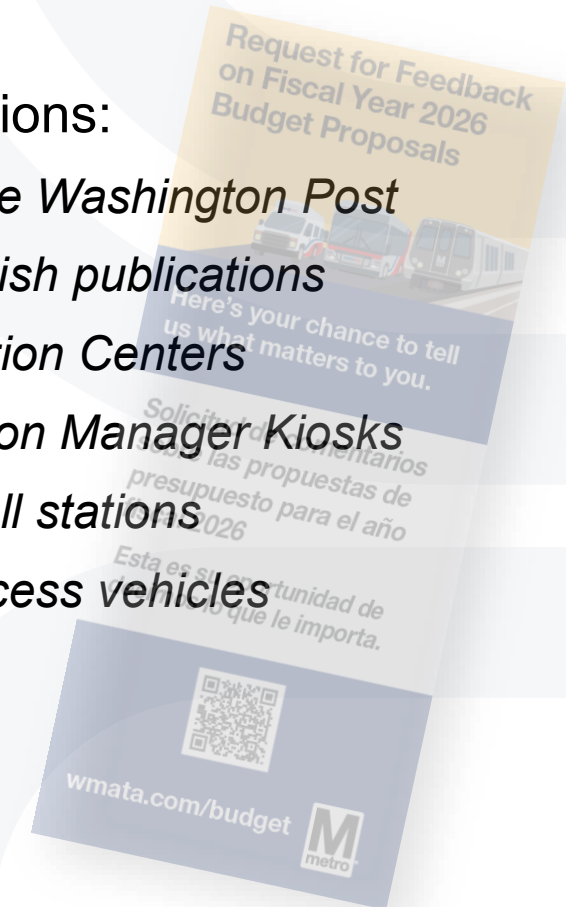
FY2026 Budget & Communications

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Communication Tactics

- Project page on wmata.com/budget
 - *Budget information & docket*
 - *Link to the survey*
 - *Multilingual flyers (13 languages)*
 - *Stakeholder Toolkit*
- Digital Communications:
 - *In-station digital screens*
 - *Social media*
 - *Emails to stakeholders & jurisdictional partners*

- Printed Communications:
 - *Public Notice in the Washington Post*
 - *Flyers in non-English publications*
 - *Metrobus Information Centers*
 - *Brochures at Station Manager Kiosks*
 - *A-frame signs at all stations*
 - *Flyers in MetroAccess vehicles*



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FY26 Budget Details

- **Public Comment Period:**
Saturday, January 11, 2025 - Monday, February 10, 2025 (until 5 p.m.)
- **Ways to Provide Feedback:**
 - *Submit written comments & take the survey online at wmata.com/budget*
 - *Provide oral testimony via phone*
 - *Provide oral testimony via video*
 - *Mail in written comments*
 - *Provide testimony in-person at a public hearing (see next slide)*

FY2026 Budget Public Hearings

Open House – Two-way conversations with Metro staff about the proposals.

Public Hearing – One-way conversation via your testimony to Metro Board members/staff and to listen to what other statements people make.

Monday, February 3, 2025

- Metro Office at Eisenhower
(2401 Mill Rd,
Alexandria, VA)
- 5:30 p.m. open house
- 6 p.m. public hearing

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

- Virtual public hearing at 12 p.m.
- By phone:
646-902-9990 meeting
code
734 797 690#
- By video: email
speak@wmata.com
by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

- Metro Headquarters
at L'Enfant
(300 7th St. SW, DC)
- 5:30 p.m. open house
- 6 p.m. public hearing

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

- Metro Office at New Carrollton
(4100 Garden City Dr.,
Hyattsville, MD)
- 5:30 p.m. open house
- 6 p.m. public hearing

Thank You

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