

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Red Line Summer 2026 Major Construction



### About the Project

#### Why is Metro doing this work?

Metro is doing this work to improve the customer experience in the following ways:

- MTA Purple Line integration at Bethesda Station
  - A second mezzanine will be constructed to connect Metro's Bethesda Station on the Red Line to MTA's Purple Line.
- Reinvestment and rehabilitation
  - Rehabilitation of the platform at Grosvenor-Strathmore to include slab edge replacement, tile replacement, new lighting, and modified drainage.
  - Aerial structure (raised railway route to allow bypassing of a road) infrastructure replacement between Grosvenor-Strathmore and Medical Center.

#### How did Metro select the timeframe for the work to take place?

Metro chose a nine-week construction schedule from July 6-Sept. 6, 2026, to avoid many more weekend closures and early weekday closures on the Red Line. The work is also being completed during months when ridership is typically lower.

#### How and where did Metro notify the public of the summer construction?

Passengers were informed of track work impacts on service through multiple channels, including **MetroAlerts**, our website, advertising, station signs, social posts, news media outlets, and in-person notification. We posted the following advisories and webpages:

- [Summer 2026 Major Construction on the Red Line](#)
- Alerts and Advisories

### Travel Options

#### Are there additional travel options while Red Line service is unavailable through certain stations?

Yes. Free shuttle bus service will replace trains during the Red Line station closures. Visit the Free Shuttle Service section of the [Summer 2026 Major Construction page](#) for information about free shuttles, bus routes, and other convenient travel options.

#### Will I be charged an additional fee to ride the shuttle buses and connect back to the rail system?

No, customers will not be charged to ride a shuttle and connect back to the rail system. During this work, we're offering "virtual tunnels," which allow customers to transfer above ground by walking or taking a shuttle to another station while only being charged the fare they would have paid if they continued on the Metro Rail system.

#### Where can I find information about other station closures and track work in the Metro Rail system?

For all upcoming scheduled closures, track work, and other service impacts, visit [wmata.com/trackwork](https://www.wmata.com/trackwork).

## Shuttle Bus Service

### How will the shuttle buses work?

Free shuttle buses will replace trains between North Bethesda and Friendship Heights during the Red Line construction. The shuttle bus service will also serve the closed stations (Grosvenor-Strathmore, Medical Center, and Bethesda). Visit the [Free Shuttle Service](#) section of the [Summer 2026 Major Construction page](#) for information about free shuttles, bus routes, and other convenient travel options.

### Will shuttle bus information be available on Metro's Trip Planner and Metro Pulse?

Metro will update the [Trip Planner](#) and [Metro Pulse](#) with shuttle bus and rail service information to ensure accurate trip planning. Once the Trip Planner is updated, third-party apps and websites will also use that data to update their information.

### What will the shuttle buses look like?

Standard Metro Bus and coach (tour) buses will be used on all shuttle routes. The destination is displayed on the signage on the front of the bus.

### What will the hours of operation and frequency be for the free shuttle bus service at the impacted stations?

Shuttles will be available during Metro Rail operating hours, with service operating approximately every 8-10 minutes. Wait times may be longer during rush hours due to traffic conditions. Metro's operating hours are: Monday-Thursday from 5 a.m. to 12 a.m.  
Friday from 5 a.m. - 2 a.m.  
Saturday from 6 a.m. - 2 a.m.  
Sunday from 6 a.m. - 12 a.m.

### Where can I find other travel options besides shuttle bus service?

The Travel Alternatives section of the [Summer 2026 Major Construction page](#) offers bus alternatives to the shuttles. Metro also offers a convenient tool called [Service Nearby](#). This site allows customers to enter their starting location. After submitting the request, bus and rail options are provided. The site even includes walking directions to the starting location.

## Parking and Biking

### Can I take my bike or scooter on the shuttle buses?

Yes, bicycles can be stowed in the luggage compartment of the coach buses and transported on the front racks of Metro Bus. Scooters are allowed onboard the Metro Bus if it is an electrical device that can be folded and stored between your legs or under the bus seat while traveling. It must be powered off when traveling. Metro does not allow gas-powered scooters onboard.

### Will I still be able to park at Grosvenor-Strathmore and North Bethesda stations?

Yes, parking will be free at Grosvenor-Strathmore and North Bethesda. Free shuttle bus services will be provided to connect you to Metro Rail.

## Fares

### Will the shuttle buses be free?

Yes, Metro's shuttle bus service will be free. Customers do not need to use or show a Smart Trip card to board the shuttle buses.

### How will I be able to load my Smart Trip card if the station is closed?

Customers can reload their Smart Trip card online, set up Auto Reload, or use the Smart Trip app. For other ways to pay, customers can add their Smart Trip to their Apple Wallet or Google Pay and pay using their Android phone, iPhone, or Apple Watch. For more information, please visit our [Mobile Pay page](#). Customers can also load Smart Trip cards at any other Metro station.

## Accessibility

### **Will shuttle buses and bus stops be accessible to people with disabilities?**

Yes, all shuttle buses (standard Metro Bus and coach buses) will be ADA-accessible. Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV) are available for customers upon request. Please ask a staff member at a shuttle bus stop for further assistance.

### **Does Metro allow strollers and how should they be stored on shuttles/buses?**

Strollers are permitted on buses. However, we encourage customers to store them in the coach bus's storage compartment or collapse them while riding on a Metro Bus.

### **Can I bring my service animal on the shuttle buses?**

Yes, service animals that assist people with disabilities will be permitted on the shuttle buses.

### **Will bilingual staff be available to provide information and assistance to customers?**

Yes, bilingual Spanish-speaking Metro staff will be at all impacted stations to provide information and assistance to customers. Based on station-specific needs, Metro staff may also speak other languages, such as Korean, Vietnamese, Amharic, and Mandarin. Metro outreach staff will wear language buttons to inform you which languages they speak.