Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

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Summary of Environmental Evaluation of the North Bethesda Metro Station Changes

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is proposing changes to the North Bethesda Metro Station transit facilities to enable joint development and increase ridership. The recommended changes are made after evaluation of future parking and transit demand at North Bethesda Metrorail Station.

The Modifications include:

- Construction of a new North Entrance to the Metro Station, in coordination with Montgomery County; and
- Reduction of up to 550 dedicated Metro parking spaces at the Park & Ride garage.

The new station entrance, to be located at the southeast corner of the Rockville Pike and Old Georgetown Road intersection, will provide enhanced access to the numerous residential and retail uses north of the station – most notably the 3.4 million square foot Pike & Rose mixed-use development. The new entrance will reduce the walking distance to the Metro Station from that major activity center by up to one-eighth mile and will be adjacent to 13.9 acres of undeveloped land identified for Joint Development. The at-grade entrance will have faregates, a stairway to the platform below, two elevators, service and support areas, an over-platform mezzanine, and an enclosure that provides weather protection and the ability to secure the station. The new entrance will be accompanied with an at-grade pedestrian plaza with enhancements to access including wider sidewalks, bicycle parking, landscape, and hardscape elements.

Reducing the number of dedicated spaces in the existing Park & Ride facility by up to 550 spaces to support parking needs associated the future joint development project would result in the amount of spaces available to Metro customers declining from the existing capacity of 1270 to 720 spaces. This change may require physical modifications to the existing garage driveway on Citadel Avenue, the addition of a new entrance on Chapman Avenue, and/or to internal garage circulation and parking configuration.

For more information, please refer to the environmental documents provided.

Table 1. Summary of Environmental and Hazardous Materials Considerations

Environmental Feature	Permanent Impacts	Construction-Related (Temporary) Impacts	Minimization and Mitigation Efforts
Transportation	Reduction of up to 550 dedicated Metro parking spaces at the Park & Ride garage. Addition of a new Metrorail station entrance at the corner of Rockville Pike and Old Georgetown Road.	Potential Revenue Service Adjustments (RSAs) including shutdowns, weekend early outs, and/or single tracking during construction of the new northern station entrance. Adjustments to the Metro parking garage may impact access to customer parking but will not impact rail or bus operations. Impacts to bicycle, pedestrian, and ADA access and circulation could occur during sidewalk regrading and widening, necessitating detours.	Approved maintenance-of-traffic (MOT) plan complemented with online and print customer communications.
Air Quality	None	Minimal	Air monitoring stations will be set up around the perimeter of the site to take measurements of the air, with the intent of limiting debris and dust from leaving the station area. To minimize such impacts, the Project team will employ dust-mitigation measures including wetting soils and cleaning equipment.
Noise and Vibration	None	Activities related to excavation, construction equipment operation, construction vehicles traveling in and out of the station area. Construction would be primarily conducted during daytime hours.	In accordance with Metro design criteria, construction noise and vibration monitoring would be conducted to ensure compliance with Metro limits. Noise and vibration control measures would be implemented, if and as needed, to comply with applicable daytime and nighttime noise limits.