

July 9 Metro and ANC 5C Meeting Q & A

Metro has prepared the below questions and answers (Q&A) addressing comments raised at the July 9, 2021 meeting with ANC 5C on the Bladensburg Bus Garage Reconstruction Project.

Community Impacts and Concerns

Q: Will Metro require employees to park within designated parking lots?

A: Metro has requested that employees park in the designated Metro employee parking lot on New York Avenue. Additionally, there are dedicated shuttle services to transport employees to and from the garage. **Update:** Metro's Bus Maintenance Division is looking into adjusting the shuttle route to decrease travel time and provide greater incentive for employees to park in the designated areas.

Q: Will Metro assign staff to address the issue of excess litter, speeding and parking on local streets?

A: Trash receptacles have been placed inside the Montana Avenue, Employee and Bladensburg Division parking lots, and Metro's Bus Maintenance Department will monitor the parking lots for cleanliness. The Bus Maintenance Department also will monitor the sidewalks surrounding the Bladensburg Bus Garage for cleanliness. Metro also is reinforcing the availability of trash receptacles and employee parking and the requirement to adhere to maximum bus operating speeds with employees.

Q: How will Metro work to minimize construction noise and impacts within the communities around Bladensburg Bus Garage?

A: Metro is committed to ensuring reconstruction of the Bladensburg Bus Garage has minimal impact on the community. The first phase of construction, which includes demolition and construction of the new facility, is expected to take place over the next three years and will be contained within the limits of the current bus garage. During Phase 1, the following protocol will be in place:

- Construction related noise will occur primary between 7 am – 7 pm, Monday through Friday
- Dust emissions will be controlled using water spray
- Traffic for this project is expected to be consistent with a fully operational bus maintenance facility. However, to further reduce construction impacts on traffic, no parking zones will be established on 25th Place and near the construction entrance on Bladensburg Road
- Metro will partner with our construction contractor, Hensel Phelps, to manage the project and designate a contact person for any community concerns related to the Bladensburg Bus Garage Reconstruction project

Q: Will Metro coordinate with other construction projects in the area to ensure disruptions are not compounded?

A: Metro is committed to ensuring that construction is conducted in a manner that is least disruptive to the surrounding communities and will work with DDOT and DCRA in any coordination efforts undertaken by those agencies.

Art in Transit

Q: Can the temporary display be inclusive of the community's history, including the Corby Baking Company, Ice Cream Factory, Fleishman's Distillery and the Battle of Bladensburg?

A: The temporary artwork for the perimeter fence is under development. Metro is in the process of gathering material on the additional historical elements suggested by the ANC.

Q: What is the projected timeframe for the installation of the temporary display?

A: The temporary art display will be installed to coincide with the beginning of major demolition work this fall.

Q: How will Metro secure the temporary display to the existing fence so that it cannot be removed?

A: Metro will securely affix the artwork to the perimeter fence. The art display will be closely monitored by Metro and its contractor and every attempt will be made to maintain the integrity of the fence. Damages will be repaired in a timely manner.

Q: Can Metro provide more information on the permanent art display?

A: The permanent art display is still under development, and Metro will partner with the community to ensure the final artwork is reflective of the community. A location for the permanent artwork will be identified as part of Phase II of construction.

Bus Garage Design and Construction

Q: Please provide the DOJ case numbers for the property acquisitions.

A: Case numbers have been provided to ANC members.

Q: Can Metro provide an update on the design consideration for the delivery access design changes for Northeast Iron Works?

A: A proposed design was provided to the Department of Justice (DOJ). DOJ is communicating with the attorney(s) of the property owners. Metro will provide more details to the community once a design is approved.

Q: Can the parking deck be moved to the back of the site alongside the railroad tracks to improve aesthetics and reduce fumes from cars and buses?

A: Metro considered multiple design drafts. The current design was selected because it fits the requirements of the garage and supports a counterclockwise traffic pattern for safer movement of buses. The selected design also allows for expanded compressed natural gas fueling capacity that will help reduce overall emissions. Additionally, the Metro Board recently approved Metro's transition to a 100% zero-emission bus fleet by 2045. This effort will drive investments in facility and infrastructure upgrades, like those planned for the new Bladensburg Bus Garage, across Metro's service area to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the region.

Q: Can Metro provide details on what the battery electric bus infrastructure would look like and can that infrastructure be moved to the back of the facility along the railroad tracks?

A: Metro is still in the planning and design process for the battery electric bus infrastructure. At this point, we believe the structure will look like a typical Metro traction power substation.

Environment and Historical Preservation

Q: How will Metro handle the stream that previously crossed the site?

A: Metro is partnering with the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to better understand the facility's history. Additionally, our stormwater management plans for the project will be reviewed and approved by DOEE.

Q: How will you handle the old foundry at the site?

A: Metro, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (HPO) entered into a Programmatic Agreement to manage the site. At the beginning of Phase II of construction, the contractor will investigate the former site and will provide results to the FTA and HPO.

Q: How will contamination at the site be handled?

A: Metro will work with DOEE to ensure that any contamination is identified and treated within DOEE standards. During construction, existing storage tanks will be closed and removed. Sampling will be conducted during the removal activity and follow-on activities will be based on sample results.

Q: How can the community stay informed?

A: The project website, wmata.com/bladensburgbusgarage, will be updated throughout the project and community meetings will be held on a regular basis.