

November 6, 2023, Community Meeting Q&A

Meeting Summary:

The Bladensburg Bus Garage Reconstruction Project held its fall community meeting on November 6, 2023, which was hosted virtually and in person at the Woodridge Neighborhood Library. The project team provided an introduction and overview of the project, discussed construction progress, and answered questions from the community. Additionally, the team presented a preview of what the community can expect in the upcoming quarter.

Introduction/Project Overview and Updates

Q: Are there any volunteer activities or employment opportunities for the community on this project?

A: Hensel Phelps, Metro's contractor for this project, oversees employment opportunities for the Bladensburg Bus Garage Reconstruction Project, and posts any project-related job requisitions to all major online publications. These positions are shared with District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners when requested. Information on other open positions with Metro is available at wmata.com/careers. Currently there are no available volunteer opportunities.

Q: Are elected officials and the public invited to project milestone activities such as the topping off ceremony?

A: Yes. For instance, in March 2023, Metro hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Bladensburg Bus Garage. The community, jurisdictional leaders, and other stakeholders were invited to celebrate the construction of a new, more modern bus maintenance and operations facility. Metro will continue to identify milestones to commemorate with the community.

Design and Construction Updates

Q: Which streets will buses use to enter the garage and how safe is it for them to come in and out of those garage entrances?

A: The buses will enter the garage from Bladensburg Road NE. Buses entering and exiting the garage site will maintain the high level of safety Metrobus drivers demonstrates every day.

Q: Is there contamination at the site? How is Metro managing remediation and keeping the community informed?

A: Metro works with the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to closely monitor the site and to remediate contaminated areas if discovered. In Phase One, soil samples confirmed remediation was required to an area of soil on site. This area was remediated in accordance with DOEE requirements. We will continue to adhere to DOEE guidance through all phases of the project. Metro will continue to post information to the project website: wmata.com/bladensburgbusgarage, if any further areas requiring remediation are discovered.

Q: What protocols are in place to ensure the safe operation of buses to protect the community and pedestrians?

A: Safety is our top priority. All bus operators receive extensive training and must comply with Metro's safety requirements. Additionally, they are required to adhere to District of Columbia and Federal Department of Transportation regulations.

Q: The lights on the lot shine into some of the residences north of the site. Will the garage design incorporate any light pollution solutions?

A: The primary purpose of perimeter lighting is to protect and secure the garage site. The team will consider the possibility and feasibility of incorporating additional shielding on the lights and will address this subject further at a future community meeting.

Looking ahead

Q: When will Metro transition operation to the new building? Will the community receive advance notice?

A: At this time, we do not have a specific timeframe for the transition of operations from the existing garage to the new building. Construction is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2026, at which point Metro will commence the

process of moving personnel, equipment, and operations to the new facility. Until then, Metro remains committed to engaging and informing the community through quarterly community meetings and newsletters.

Q: When is the anticipated completion date for the installation of the second stormwater retention tank?

A: Installation of the second stormwater tank is expected to be complete in early 2024, or sooner.