

May 2, 2023, Community Meeting Q&A

**Meeting Summary:**

The 2023 spring community meeting for the Bladensburg Bus Garage Reconstruction Project was hosted virtually and in person at the Woodridge Neighborhood Library on May 2, 2023. The project team shared project updates and answered questions from the community. The topics covered included: team introductions/project overview and updates, construction updates, Metro's Zero Emission Bus Update, a look ahead, and what to expect next quarter.

**Project Overview and Updates:**

**Q: When the garage reopens how many employee parking spaces will there be?**

A: We're reevaluating the number of employee parking spaces at the garage to accommodate the inclusion of zero-emission bus charging technology and infrastructure. We'll provide an update on the number of employee parking spaces at a future community meeting.

**Q: As part of the Bus Network Redesign there's a planned reconfiguration of bus service throughout the region. Will that impact the number of buses at Bladensburg when it opens?**

A: We are in the process of determining the exact mix and number of buses that will operate from the Bladensburg Bus Garage when it reopens. As mentioned in previous meetings, we anticipate the Bladensburg Bus Garage fleet to consist of approximately 292 buses.

**Q: What are the plans to beautify the fencing perimeter? Is there another option for the fence other than the planned ornamental metal fence?**

A: Landscaping elements, including trees, will be incorporated along the perimeter of the fence. The ornamental metal fence meets Metro's design and safety standards and is an important component to ensuring the security of the garage. As such, we do not have plans to alter the fence design.

**Q: Do you still intend to erect the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) storage tanks and infrastructure at the corner of 25<sup>th</sup> Place and Bladensburg Road? What's the plan to protect it from traffic incidents?**

A: The CNG storage tanks and infrastructure will be included in the garage's final design. We are adhering to all applicable safety and zoning laws and regulations, including regulated setbacks. Additionally, there will be multiple barriers between the storage tanks and street traffic, including the retaining wall and perimeter fence.

**Construction Updates:**

**Q: Will the water tanks be underground?**

A: No, the water tanks will be above ground.

**Q: How can local business owners learn about opportunities to partner with the project?**

A: Small business owners interested in participating in Metro's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and the Small Business Program can find more information on our [Small Business Programs Office](#) webpage. Additional opportunities are available within the Mid-Atlantic Region through our contractor Hensel Phelps outlined in the [Mid Atlantic Region Public Plan Room \(buildingconnected.com\)](#).

**Metro's Zero-Emission Bus Updates:**

**Q: Will the Bladensburg Bus Garage open as a zero-emission facility?**

A: The new garage will be able to support a 100% zero emission fleet and will open with a mix of the current Metrobus fleet and approximately 150 new zero-emission buses. The garage will transition to zero-emission operations as outlined in [Metro's Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan](#).

**Q: When will the project be completed?**

A: The project is expected to be completed in 2026.