

Fleet of the Future Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Fleet of the Future Expo?

A. The Fleet of the Future Expo will provide you with a sneak peek at our new 8000-series train mock-up with an open gangway design, a new 60-foot electric bus, and a pop-up shop selling Metro merchandise. You will be able to board the train and the bus to see first-hand the future of America's Transit System.

Q. Where is the Fleet of the Future Expo located?

A. The expo is located near Smithsonian Station on the National Mall at the intersection of 12th St and Madison Dr NW. This is located between the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Q. Can I enter the model 8000-series train?

A. Yes. The mockup is an 82-foot model train that you can walk inside like a real railcar. The purpose is for you to interact with and see the features of the new trains, provide feedback on the design, and take plenty of photos.

Q. Can I enter the electric bus?

A. Yes. The electric bus will be stationary on Madison Dr. during the expo, but it is fully operational. You can walk inside and get a look at one of the two electric buses in our fleet that currently serve customers in the region.

Q. Can we buy Metro-branded merchandise at the expo?

A. Yes! We will have a mobile pop-up shop on 7th St and Madison Dr. where you can purchase t-shirts, mugs, hoodies, kites, socks, magnets, and more.

Q. Can I take photos inside the electric bus or mockup train?

A. We would love for you to take photos and share them on social media. Don't forget to tag us and hashtag #FleetOfTheFuture and #YourMetro.

Q. Is the Fleet of the Future Expo family-friendly?

A. Absolutely! The expo has family-friendly fun for children and adults of all ages. Besides the mockup train and electric bus, we will have a photobooth, cutout trains and buses, surveys, a historic quiz, and Metro experts to answer any questions you may have.

Q. I am a school teacher. Can I bring my class for a field trip?

A. Yes! We would love for schools to bring students to the expo for field trips. If you are interested, please email community@wmata.com with your name, class size, grade, and desired date and time.

Q. How many people can be inside the 8000-series train mockup at one time?

A. The new model 8000-series train has a weight restriction and can accommodate no more than 20 people at a time. Our recommended time within the mockup is 7-10 minutes, and there will be other activities as part of the experience, including Metro history trivia, a photo booth, and an opportunity to speak to the Metro project team.

Q. Will there be lines to view the new 8000-series train and electric bus?

A. The train mockup and electric bus have capacity limits to ensure all visitors have a safe and memorable experience. We anticipate some lines to board both the bus and trains, as the expo coincides with peak bloom for the Cherry Blossoms. Wait times will be displayed in line for your convenience and awareness.

Q. Can I take food or beverages on the 8000-series train mockup or electric bus?

A. To help us keep the area clean, food and beverages are not permitted inside the 8000-series train mockup or electric bus. Water in a sealed bottle may be brought on the train and bus.

Q. Can I use public transit to visit the expo?

A. To visit, take the Blue, Orange, or Silver lines to Smithsonian Station. Then, take the 12th and Jefferson streets exit and take a left at the top of the escalator. You can also take nearby bus routes including Metrobus 3F, 33, 52, 59, 63, 64, 70, 79, S2, and the DC Circulator National Mall Route.