



Western Bus Garage Replacement Project FAQs

1. What is the Western Bus Garage Replacement Project?

The Western Bus Garage Replacement Project aims to create a modern, world-class bus operations and maintenance facility in Northwest Washington, DC to provide safe and reliable bus service and support important redevelopment efforts already underway in the area.

The proposed new garage will:

- Maintain a similar fleet size of approximately 120 buses but will be designed to accommodate only non-diesel, zero-emission buses.
- Replace the open-air parking facility with a structured garage that increases operational efficiency and supports zero-emission bus charging.
- Continue to provide space for maintenance activities and other operational activities to efficiently serve customers.

2. Why does Metro need a new Western Bus Garage?

The existing Western Bus Garage was built in 1936 and is beyond the end of its serviceable lifespan. The facility is becoming increasingly costly to maintain and operate, is unable to support Metro's transition to zero-emission buses and does not provide adequate and modern facilities for Metro's employees.

3. Will Metro continue to use diesel buses at the new Western Bus Garage?

Metro has committed to converting its bus fleet to be 100% zero-emission by 2045. When the new Western Bus Garage opens, it will serve only zero-emission buses and will not accommodate diesel buses.

4. What is a zero-emission bus facility?

A zero-emission bus facility includes the infrastructure to support a fleet of zero-emission buses (those with no tailpipe or direct emissions). Metro is currently reviewing and comparing various zero-emission options, including battery-electric.

5. Where is the proposed location of the new Western Bus Garage?

Metro has identified the vacant Lord & Taylor property as the preferred location for the new Western Bus Garage. Metro's Board of Directors approved the acquisition of the Lord & Taylor property in 2022, and Metro is actively pursuing this acquisition.



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6. Were other sites evaluated for the new Western Bus Garage?

Metro did evaluate other locations - Saint John's Military Academy, Fort Reno Park, Dalecarlia Reservoir, and the Geico parking lot. These locations had constraints that did not make them viable for the new bus garage, including environmental conditions, significant permitting issues, federal restrictions, increased travel time for buses, operational issues, or acquisition was infeasible or cost prohibitive. The Lord & Taylor property was selected as the proposed location because of its size, proximity to the existing facility, and availability due to its vacant status and being marketed for sale by the owner which made it the most viable option of the alternatives evaluated.

7. What will happen to the Lord & Taylor building?

The building has been nominated as a historic landmark, but no decision about a designation has been made by the DC Historic Preservation Office.

8. What will happen to the current Western Bus Garage after the new facility is constructed?

Metro is exploring the feasibility of [joint development](#) on the current garage site. Joint development is a Federal Transit Administration definition whereby a transit agency engages private developers to deliver housing, retail and other uses on Metro-owned property and incorporates, as needed, any existing or new transit facilities. New development would preserve the current station entrance.

9. Are there environmental concerns at the existing facility?

Metro has performed environmental remediation at the existing site as required by DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). Metro will continue to abide by all applicable environmental laws and regulations for the Project.

10. Will the new Western Bus Garage include joint development?

Metro is exploring the feasibility of joint development activities at this location that align with the goals of the [DC Office of Planning's Wisconsin Avenue Development Framework](#). This planning activity, which includes and incorporates community input, is currently ongoing.



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11. Will Metro consider affordable housing options if it pursues joint development at the new garage site?

Metro is exploring the feasibility of joint development and opportunities for affordable housing with the District Government. Metro is committed to engaging and collaborating with various stakeholders to align with the goals of the [DC Comprehensive Plan](#) to provide affordable housing opportunities in Friendship Heights. Metro's Board policy for joint development requires that all projects abide by local jurisdictional requirements or policies, in this case inclusionary zoning. It also suggests that Metro and developers should coordinate with local jurisdictions to identify if there are other affordable housing goals for a project and identify sources of funding to achieve them.

12. Is parking being considered for Metro staff within the new facility?

Parking for Metro employees at the proposed facility will be explored during the next phase of the project development.

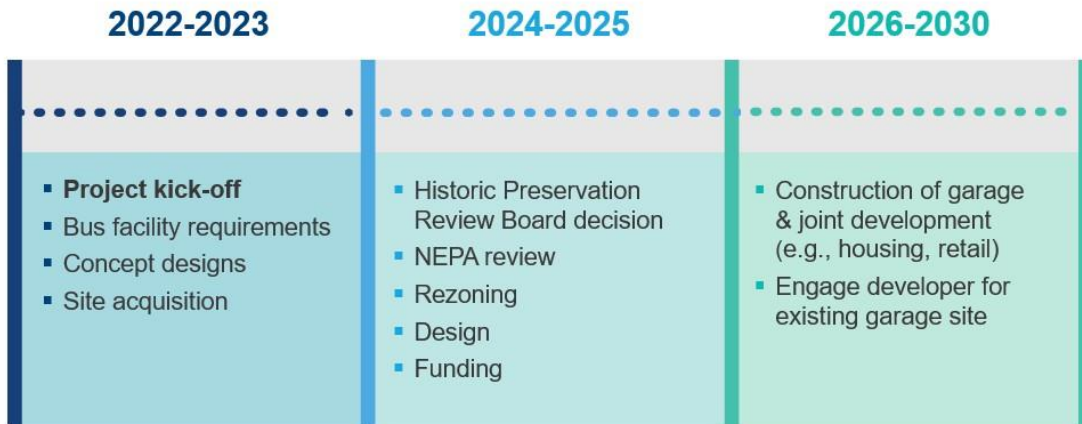
13. What is the overall project timeline?

- **2022-2023 – Project Planning** – includes identifying requirements for the bus facility, community outreach, developing project concept designs, and site acquisition.
- **2024-2025 – Project Design and Environmental Clearance** – includes the continuation of project design refinements, continued community outreach, review of historic and environmental impacts and documentation preparation, identification of construction funding opportunities, and rezoning the future site for bus and joint development.
- **2026-2030 – Construction** – construction of the new Western Bus Garage facility and identification and engagement of a developer for the existing garage site.



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Tentative Project Schedule & Key Milestones



*Timeline is subject to change to account for regulatory approvals
NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act*

14. How can I get involved?

Visit and scroll to the bottom of the webpage to [sign up for updates](#). We will continue to engage stakeholders and hold events to keep the community updated.

Sign Up for Project Updates

Metro wants your feedback and engagement throughout this project. Sign up to be added to our mailing list to receive project news, including invitations to community meetings, delivered straight to your inbox.

Email Address (Required)

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