

**PUBLIC HEARING
STAFF REPORT**

**STAFF ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
AND
STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPOSED VENT SHAFT MODIFICATION TO
GALLERY PLACE-CHINATOWN METRORAIL STATION
WASHINGTON, DC**

Hearing No. 665
Docket No. R25-01
Thursday, January 9, 2025

**WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
(WMATA)**

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WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEARING STAFF REPORT
REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS
PROPOSED VENT SHAFT MODIFICATION TO
GALLERY PLACE-CHINATOWN METRORAIL STATION
WASHINGTON, DC
HEARING NO. 665
DOCKET NO. R25-01

This report presents a review of the public hearing on January 9, 2025, including material submitted for the public hearing record. Included in this report are recommendations from various WMATA staff concerning the proposed Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station, Washington, DC.

The report contains the following sections

- I. Introduction
- II. Communication and Outreach to the Public
- III. Summary of the Public hearing
- IV. Summary of the Staff Presentation
- V. Supplemental Correspondence Submitted for the Record
- VI. Compact Article VI Section 15 - Other Agency Review and Comments
- VII. Response to Comments received for the Record
- VIII. Comments Overview and Staff Recommendations
- Appendix A - WMATA Metrorail Public Hearing Notice
 - Attachment 1 – Public hearing notices in *Washington Post*
 - Attachment 2 – Public hearing notices to public agencies
- Appendix B - Comments
 - Attachment 1 – Public hearing transcript
 - Attachment 2 – Website comments
- Appendix C - Public Hearing Presentation

I. INTRODUCTION

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) proposes to modify a vent shaft of the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail station (Proposed Project), which serves the Capital One Arena and Chinatown neighborhood of Washington, DC. The vent shaft modification for the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station would allow for future construction activity over the existing vent sidewalk grate.

The proposed project is located within the construction perimeter of the Capital One Arena Modernization project that includes the Gallery Place Expansion. WMATA's Gallery Place – Chinatown Metrorail Station is within the vicinity of this project. The WMATA vent shaft is proposed to be modified, however there will be no significant changes to the operational aspects to the vent shaft system of the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail station.

The relief vent shaft for the WMATA tunnel is to be extended towards the east, to allow for future construction activity over the existing vent sidewalk grate. Rather than the existing sidewalk grate to discharge the air from the vent shaft, there will be a sidewall louver at the face of the building. The construction of the vent shaft extension will take place while the existing relief vent is active, and it is anticipated there will be no down time to the system.

Details of the proposal are shown in the General Plans. The General Plans and the Notice of Public Hearing were available online at:

<http://www.wmata.com/plansandprojects>

Also, these documents were available for inspection during normal business hours at the following locations, commencing **December 7, 2024**.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
300 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024
202-962-2511

II. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH TO THE PUBLIC

This section provides an overview of public outreach activities and an analysis of their effectiveness.

Introduction

As discussed above,

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), proposes the modification of the vent shaft of Gallery Place Metrorail station (Proposed Project), serving the Capital One Arena/ Chinatown neighborhood of Washington, DC. The vent shaft relocation for the Gallery Place Metrorail Station would allow for future construction activity over the existing vent sidewalk grate. (See Figures 1 and 2)

This project is extending the relief vent shaft for the WMATA tunnel towards the east, to allow for future construction activity over the existing vent sidewalk grate. The tunnel will extend approximately 100 feet and limits the changes of direction as much as possible, to limit the pressure drop added to the system. Rather than a sidewalk grate to discharge the air from the vent shaft, there will be a sidewall louver at the face of the building. A door, lighting, and an access ladder down into the shaft for any maintenance or cleaning needs will be constructed. Construction of the extension will take place while the existing relief vent is active, and it is anticipated there will be no down time to the system.

The vent shaft would be modified, and a new 13 ft x 30 ft vent shaft louver would be installed in the wall of Gallery Place in the east alley. The existing 29 ft x7 ft vent shaft grating in the pavement of the west alley would be removed and covered by the Gallery Place expansion.

As required by WMATA's Compact, the public was provided with the opportunity to comment on the proposal. Following the guidelines established by WMATA's Board-approved Public Participation Plan, the following report is a summary of the public outreach and resulting comments on the proposal.

Figure 1: Gallery Place and Vent Shaft (EXISTING)

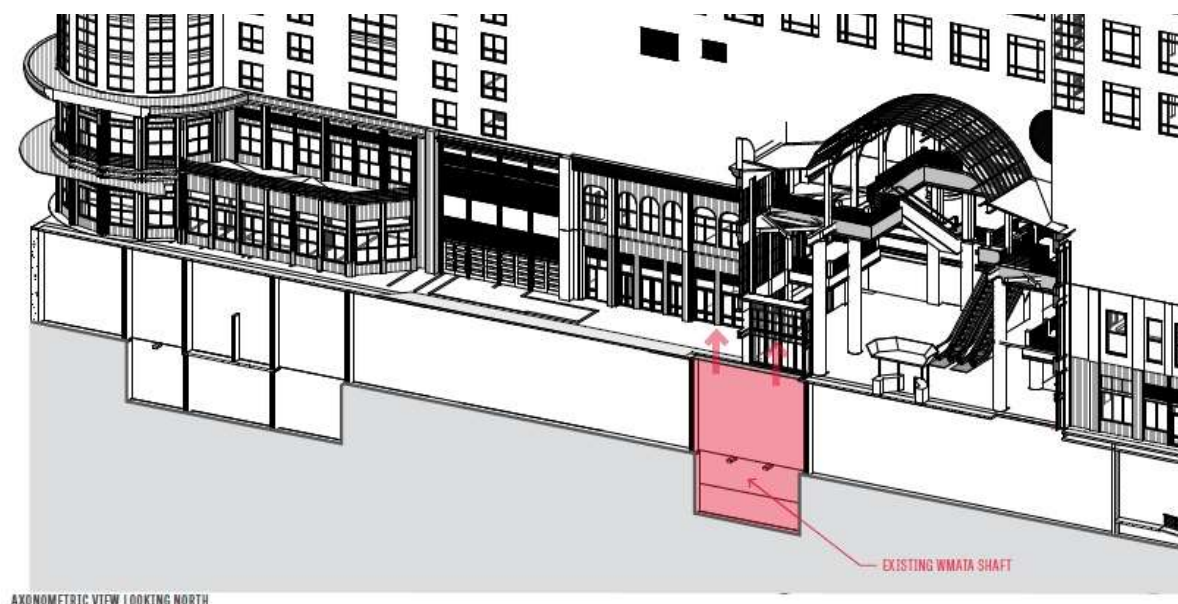
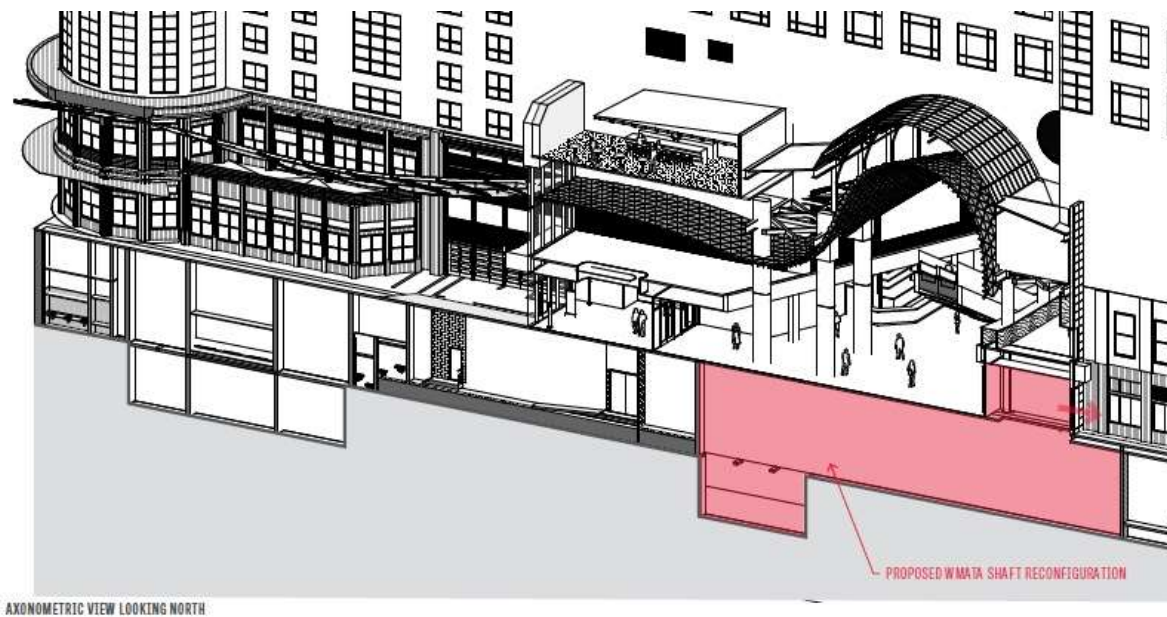


Figure 2: Gallery Place and Vent Shaft (AFTER CONSTRUCTION)



Communication & Outreach to the Public

To encourage feedback on the proposal, as well as to fulfill Metro's Public Participation Plan, Metro tailored a communication and outreach plan that focused on local residents, community representatives, businesses and property owners near the proposed entrance area.

Below is an overview of all communications and outreach efforts conducted during the comment period from **December 7, 2024, to January 21, 2025**:

Introduction

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) proposes to modify a vent shaft of the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station, which serves the Capital One Arena and Chinatown neighborhood of Washington, DC. The vent shaft relocation for the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station would allow for future construction activity over the existing vent sidewalk grate.

The proposed project is located within the construction perimeter of the Capital One Arena modernization project that includes the Gallery Place Expansion. WMATA's Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station is within the vicinity of this project. The WMATA vent shaft is proposed to be relocated; however, there will be no significant changes to the operational aspects to the vent shaft system of the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail station.

If approved, the relief vent shaft for the WMATA tunnel will be extended towards the east, to allow for future construction activity over the existing vent sidewalk grate. Rather than the existing sidewalk grate to discharge the air from the vent shaft, there will be a sidewall louver at the face of the building. The construction of the vent shaft extension will take place while the existing relief vent is active, and it is anticipated there will be no down time to the system. A maintenance easement will be established between

6th Street, NW, and the sidewall louver.

Communications and Outreach Overview

Communications and outreach were guided by the requirements for WMATA Compact Public Hearings as well as Metro's federally-mandated, Board-approved Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Beyond meeting basic requirement for a Compact Public Hearing, WMATA followed PPP guidelines to create a targeted communications plan. The plan was designed to collect feedback inclusively and collaboratively with a focus on engaging minority, low-income and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations as well as those who use the station.

Most of the communications and outreach tactics outlined in this report occurred during the official public comment period timeframe (December 7, 2024 - January 21, 2025).

The final communications and outreach plan included the following efforts:

- **Stakeholder communication**
- **Standard marketing and media**
- **Compact Public Hearing**

Feedback was collected through the following sources during the public comment period:

- **Written comments received online and by the Board Secretary's Office**
- **Oral testimony received at the Virtual Compact Public Hearing**
- **Responses to public survey**

Three comments were received through the Public Input Survey with no one testifying at the Compact Hearing.

Stakeholder Communication

Metro focused efforts on communications for stakeholders surrounding the Gallery Place-Chinatown station as well as local DC government officials.

The following efforts were made to communicate with project stakeholders:

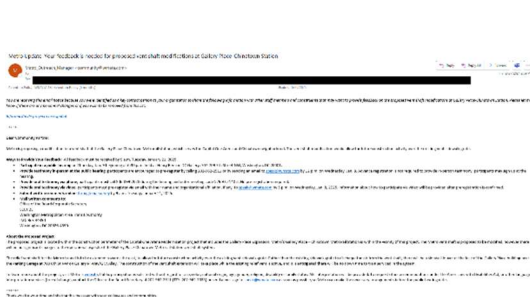
- Metro released an advertisement in the Washington Post on December 7, 2024, to initiate the public comment period and provide project-related details.
- Metro published a press release on December 13, 2024, detailing the project initiatives, public comment period, and upcoming opportunities for the public to learn more and provide feedback.
- Metro reposted an advertisement in the Washington Post on December 14, 2024, to remind customers of the public comment period and provide project-related details.
- Metro notified internal staff on stakeholder communication on December 27, 2024, and a reminder e-mail on January 7, 2025.



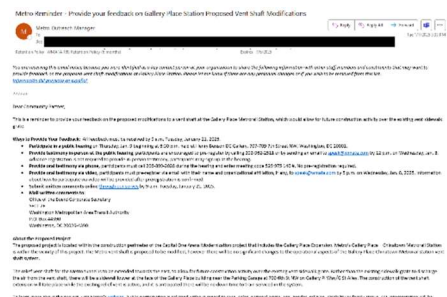
The project was advertised in the Washington Post on December 7, 2024.



The project was reposted in the Washington Post on December 14, 2024.



Stakeholder E-mail sent on 12/27/2024



Stakeholder Reminder E-mail sent on 1/7/2025

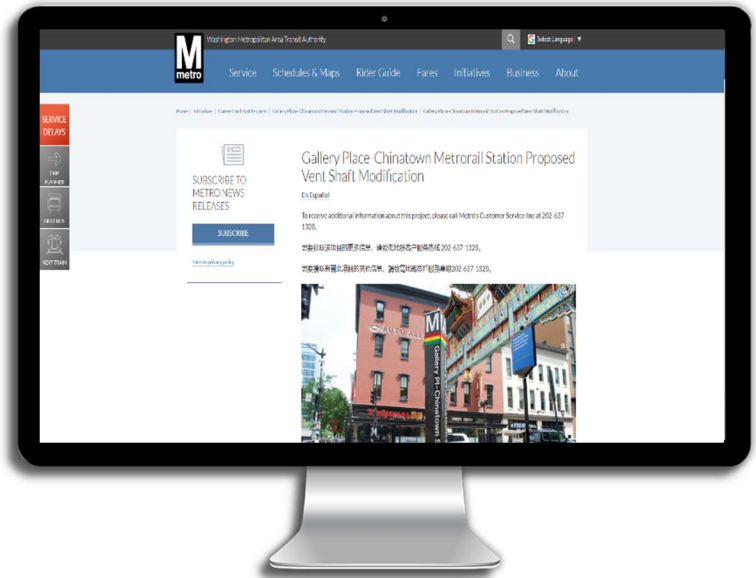
Standard Marketing and Media

Standard marketing, signage, and media relations tactics were used to increase awareness and encourage public feedback.

Project Webpage

The [project webpage](#) on Metro's website served as the project information hub and the primary channel for collecting public feedback. Information was presented in English and Spanish, and a variety of content was available for the public to review, including the environmental evaluation and detailed design plans of the proposed second entrance. The Virtual Compact Public Hearing was also streamed live on this page.

During the public comment, the project webpage received 264 unique page views. The average time spent on the page was just over 30 seconds. 64.39% of the viewers accessed the page from their desktop computer, 34.09% accessed the page from a mobile device, and 1.52% accessed the page from a tablet.



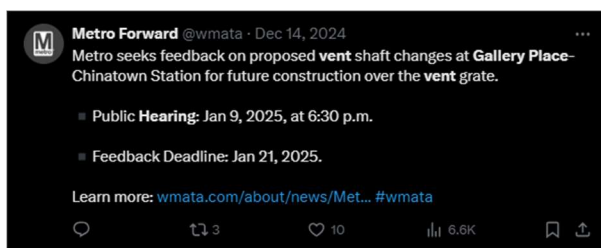
Social Media

Metro publicized the project via X, formerly Twitter, leveraging organic posts. In total, Metro's social media posts resulted in more than 6.6 views, 3 reposts, and 10 likes.

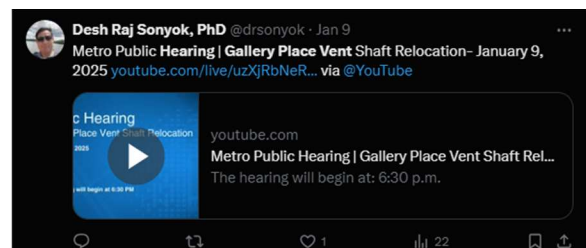
Note: Reach = the total number of people who saw the content (measure is estimated). Impressions = the number of times the content was displayed on a user's screen, no matter if it was seen, clicked or engaged with or not. Engagements = Likes, comments and shares.

Media	Date(s)	Details
X (formerly Twitter)	12/14/2024	1 post 6.6K views 0 comments, 3 reposts, and 10 likes

Social Media Examples



X post on December 14, 2024



X repost on January 9, 2025

Print Sign Postings

Information was posted in English and Spanish on signs in and around the Gallery Place-Chinatown Station to reach rail and bus customers.

Signage Examples

**GALLERY PLACE - CHINATOWN STATION
PROPOSED VENT SHAFT MODIFICATION
HEARING**

LEARN MORE HERE!



Take the survey, provide written comments
or upload documents at
wmata.com/GalleryPlaceVent
by 9:00 a.m. on
Tuesday, January 21, 2025



**Modificación del conducto de
ventilación de Gallery Place
Audiencia pública del WMATA Compact**

¡Más información aquí!



Responda la encuesta, proporcione comentarios
por escrito o cargue documentos en
wmata.com/GalleryPlaceVent
a las 9:00 a.m.
Martes, 21 de enero de 2025



Media Relations

Metro issued a press release on December 13 to generate earned media coverage about the project and promote the Compact Public Hearing.

Date	Title	Details
12/13/24	Metro seeks public feedback on proposed vent shaft modifications at Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station WMATA	Metro invites the public to participate in the Compact Public Hearing and provide public comments through January 21, 2025.


Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Select Language ▼

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Home | About | News | Metro seeks public feedback on proposed vent shaft modifications at Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station

NEWS

Media Relations



SUBSCRIBE TO METRO NEWS RELEASES

SUBSCRIBE

[Metro's privacy policy](#)

For immediate release: December 13, 2024

Metro seeks public feedback on proposed vent shaft modifications at Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station

Metro is proposing a modification to a vent shaft at the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail station (Proposed Project), which serves the Capital One Arena and Chinatown neighborhood. The vent shaft modification would allow for future construction activity over the existing vent sidewalk grate.

Metro invites customers to provide input by **Tuesday, January 21, 2025**, at 9 a.m. by sharing feedback the following ways:

- **Participate in a public hearing** on Thursday, January 9, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- To provide testimony in person at the hearing, participants are encouraged to pre-register by calling 202-962-2511 or by sending an email to speak@wmata.com by 12 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8. Advance registration is not required to provide in-person testimony, and participants may sign up at the hearing.
- To provide oral testimony via phone, participants must call 206-899-2028 during the hearing and enter meeting code 529 975 140#. No pre-registration is required.
- To provide oral testimony via video, participants must pre-register via email with their name and organizational affiliation, if any, to speak@wmata.com by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Press release posted to Metro webpage.

Compact Public Hearing

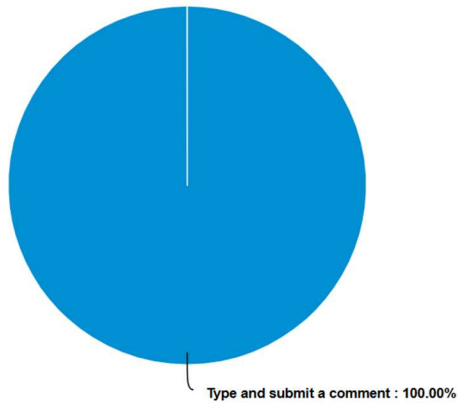
A Compact Public Hearing was held on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. The hearing was conducted by WMATA Board of Director, Spring Worth, and Senior Capital Program Manager, Elvio Caporuscio, and was streamed live on [Metro's YouTube channel](#). The hearing hosted 3 in-person attendees and was viewed by 98 people with 4 likes online. No one testified at the hearing, and 3 comments were submitted through the online survey. Submitted comments are presented in the appendix of the Staff Report.



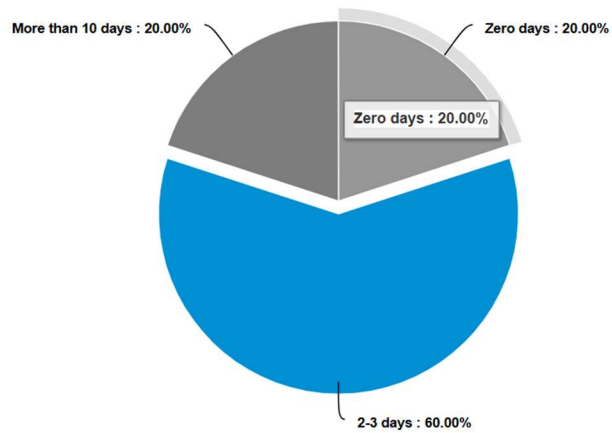
Public Input Results

Metro collected public input during the public comment period from Saturday, December 7, 2024, through 9 a.m. Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

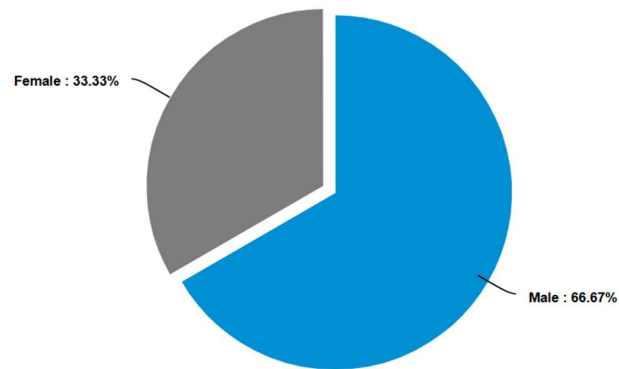
How do you wish to use this form to provide your comment regarding the proposed vent shaft modification at the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station?



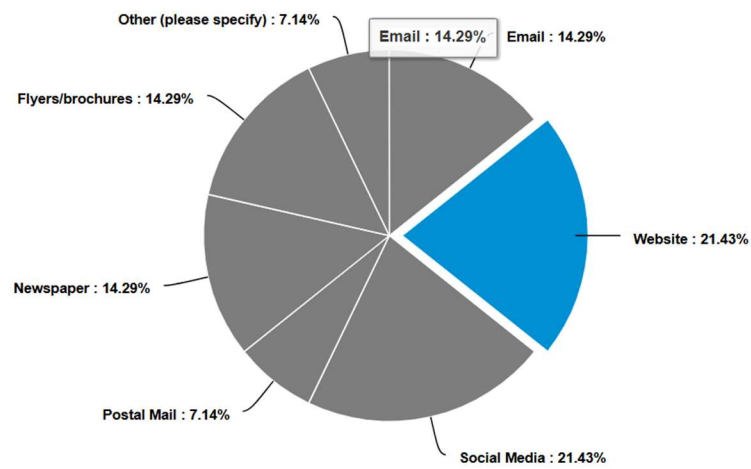
How often have you used the Gallery Place-Chinatown Station in past 30 days?



What is your gender identity?



What's the best way for Metro to communicate with you as this project continues?



Please provide your comments in the box below:

01/09/2025 136439563 I support the vent shaft relocation

12/31/2024 136367384 Please share a photo (image and sketch of proposed changes) so that the public can clearly understand the proposed change!

12/20/2024 136314174 I am in favor of the vent relocation since it will not impact rail service and allow for more development in the area around the metro station.

Metro collected public input during the public comment period from Saturday, December 7, 2024, through 9 a.m. Tuesday, January 21, 2025, via written comments (submitted online or letters mailed to the Board Secretary's Office) and oral testimony at the Compact Public Hearing.

There were two supporting comments in favor of the Gallery Place-Chinatown Station Vent Modification with one stating "I am in favor of the vent relocation since it will not impact rail service and allow for more development in the area around the metro station."

Other Results and Demographics		Responses
Device used to complete online survey		
Desktop or laptop computer		50%
Smartphone, tablet or other mobile device		50%
Hispanic or Latino		
Yes		0
No		5
Race		
African American		0
Native American		0
Asian		1
Pacific Islander		0
White		4
Other		0
Gender		
Male		4
Female		2
Other		0

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Compact Public Hearing was held on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. The hearing was conducted by WMATA Board of Director, Spring Worth, and Senior Capital Program Manager, Elvio Caporuscio and was streamed live on Metro's project webpage as well as on [Metro's YouTube channel](#). The hearing hosted 3 in-person attendees and was viewed by 98 people with 4 likes online. Noone testified at the hearing.

Following an opening statement by Ms. Worth, WMATA staff described the proposed facility. The staff presentation is summarized in Section IV of this report. The background and supporting documentation included the following:

- Copies of the Public Hearing notice,
- The Environmental Report, and
- General Plans.

The hearing was closed at 6:55 P.M.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE STAFF PRESENTATION

Ms. Worth opened the hearing and explained that the hearing had been advertised in the Washington Post. She explained the purpose of the public hearing was to receive comments, suggestions, and alternatives on the proposed modifications to the Ballston station by adding a new entrance. Ms. Worth then explained the hearing procedures and explained that changes to the options presented may be proposed in response to testimony received and subsequent staff analysis.

Mr. Elvio Caporuscio, WMATA's Senior Capital Program Manager, delivered the staff presentation. Mr. Elvio Caporuscio explained that the project was for the modification of the vent shaft to accommodate future construction at Capital One Arena and Gallery Place, and provided an overview of the identified environmental impacts, and the environmental approvals.

The transcript and presentation are included in Appendices B and C respectively.

PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS

The project developer will acquire all easements necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the vent shaft modifications. WMATA and developer are preparing agreements for the use of these easements in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The Public Hearing record remained open until January 21, 2025. Three general comments were submitted through the online survey. Submitted comments are presented in Section VII of the Staff Report.

VI. COMPACT ARTICLE, SECTION 15-OTHER AGENCY REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Copies of the Public Hearing notice were sent to federal, state, regional and local agencies. No comment was received.

VII. RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR THE RECORD

Three written general comments were submitted through the online survey.

Please provide your comments in the box below:

01/09/2025 136439563 I support the vent shaft relocation

12/31/2024 136367384 Please share a photo (image and sketch of proposed changes) so that the public can clearly understand the proposed change!

12/20/2024 136314174 I am in favor of the vent relocation since it will not impact rail service and allow for more development in the area around the metro station.

Summary

There were two supporting comments in favor of the Gallery Place-Chinatown Station Vent Modification with one stating “I am in favor of the vent relocation since it will not impact rail service and allow for more development in the area around the metro station.” The third comment requested an image or sketch of the proposed changes.

Response

Comments noted. The presentation within the public hearing provided images of the proposed changes. Additionally, the General Plans and environmental study provided additional details about the proposed modification to the vent shaft.

VIII. COMMENT OVERVIEW AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Summary

Metro collected public input during the public comment period from Saturday, December 7, 2024, through 9 a.m. Tuesday, January 21, 2025, and there was no oral testimony the Compact Public Hearing. There were no and no uploaded documents or written correspondence.

Public Input Sources	
Written comments	3
Oral Testimony	0
Uploaded Documents	0
Total	3

On-line comments account for 3 (100%) of the 3 comment submissions. On-line respondents provided the following information related to their demographics:

Other Results and Demographics		Responses
Device used to complete online survey		
Desktop or laptop computer		50%
Smartphone, tablet or other mobile device		50%
Hispanic or Latino		
Yes		0
No		5
Race		
African American		0
Native American		0
Asian		1
Pacific Islander		0
White		4
Other		0
Gender		
Male		4
Female		2
Other		0

B. Draft Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the vent shaft modification for the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station, as shown in the General Plans.

Appendix A - WMATA Metrorail Public hearing Notice

Attachment 1 – Public hearing Notices in *Washington Post*

Attachment 2 – Public Hearing Notice to Public Agencies

Attachment 1 – Public Hearing Notices in *Washington Post*

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The Washington Post
CLASSIFIED

WASHINGTON POST, DECEMBER 7, 2024

For recruitment advertisements, go to [washingtonpost.com/recruit/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/recruit/) or call 202-334-4000 (toll free 1-800-765-3679).

To place an ad, go to [washingtonpostads.com](https://www.washingtonpostads.com) or call 202-334-6200. Most commercial advertisements can be placed with our 24/7 toll-free line 1-800-334-6200.

Legal Notices: 202-334-7007
Auctions, Estate Sales, Foreclosure: 202-334-7029
Biz Ops/Services: 202-334-5767

Icons and Categories:

- the local expert on local jobs
- homes for sale, commercial real estate
- commercial real estate
- merchandise, garage sales, auctions, items
- dogs, cats, birds, fish
- Trustee Sales 202-334-5762

Recruitment Advertisements:

Business and Financial Services:

Did you hear The Post today?

Washington Post podcasts go with you everywhere. Politics • History • Culture • More. [wpost.com/podcasts](https://www.wpost.com/podcasts)

The project was advertised in the *Washington Post* on December 7, 2024.

CLASSIFIED zone EZ | 2024-12-14 | D 6 | BLACK

The Washington Post
CLASSIFIED

WASHINGTON POST, DECEMBER 14, 2024

For recruitment advertisements, go to [washingtonpost.com/recruit/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/recruit/) or call 202-334-4000 (toll free 1-800-765-3679).

To place an ad, go to [washingtonpostads.com](https://www.washingtonpostads.com) or call 202-334-6200. Most commercial advertisements can be placed with our 24/7 toll-free line 1-800-334-6200.

Legal Notices: 202-334-7007
Auctions, Estate Sales, Foreclosure: 202-334-7029
Biz Ops/Services: 202-334-5767

Icons and Categories:

- the local expert on local jobs
- homes for sale, commercial real estate
- commercial real estate
- merchandise, garage sales, auctions, items
- dogs, cats, birds, fish
- Trustee Sales 202-334-5762

Recruitment Advertisements:

Business and Financial Services:

Recipe finder

WELL+BEING

sunny

The project was reposted in the *Washington Post* on December 14, 2024.

Attachment 2 – Public hearing Notice to Public Agencies



**Notice of Public Hearing
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Proposed Vent Shaft Modification
to Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station
Washington, DC
Docket R25-01**

Purpose

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on a proposed Vent Shaft Modification to Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station, in Washington, DC as follows:

Open House 6:00 p.m.

Hearing No. 665
6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 9, 2025
Henry Benson DC Gallery
707-709 7th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Please note that these dates are subject to each facility's cancellation policy. In the event of a cancellation, Metro will post information about a new hearing on <https://wmata.com/plansandprojects>

The locations for all Metro public hearings are wheelchair accessible. Sign language interpretation will be provided. Any individual who requires special assistance or additional accommodation to participate in these public hearings, or who requires these materials in an alternate format, should contact the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary at 202-962-2511 or TTY: 202-962-2033 as soon as possible in order for Metro to make necessary arrangements. For language assistance, such as an interpreter or information in another language, please call 202-962-1082 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing date.

For more information, please visit <https://wmata.com/plansandprojects>



In accordance with Section 62 of the WMATA Compact, Metro will conduct public hearings at the locations listed in this notice. Information on this hearing will be provided in Metrorail stations, Metrobuses, at area libraries and online at wmata.com.

HOW TO REGISTER TO SPEAK AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to this docket will be afforded the opportunity to present their views, make supporting statements and to offer alternative proposals. Public officials will be allowed five minutes each to make their presentations. All others will be allowed three minutes each. Relinquishing of time by one speaker to another will not be permitted.

Individuals can provide testimony at the hearing in one of three ways:

In person: Individuals wishing to provide testimony in person during a hearing are encouraged to pre-register by emailing speak@wmata.com or calling (202) 962-2511 by 12 p.m. the day of the hearing at which you wish to testify. Please submit only one speaker's name per request. Individuals can also sign up at the hearing to provide testimony; advance registration to provide in-person testimony is not required.

By videoconference: Individuals wishing to provide testimony via videoconference are required to furnish, in writing, their name and organizational affiliation, if any, via email to speak@wmata.com by 5 p.m. the day prior to the hearing at which you wish to testify. Please submit only one speaker's name per request.

By telephone: Individuals should call (206) 899-2028 during the hearing and enter Meeting Code 529 975 140#.

HOW TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY NOT AT A PUBLIC HEARING

Testimony about this proposal may be submitted at <https://wmata.com/plansandprojects>. This website will open by 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 7, 2024, and will close at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. The website will also provide the opportunity to upload documents and submit freeform comments. This is in addition to your ability to speak at a public hearing. For those without access to computers or internet, testimony may also be mailed to the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary, SECT 2E, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, P.O. Box 44390, Washington, DC 20026-4390. All comments must be received by the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary by 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, to be included in the public record. Please reference "Gallery Place Vent Shaft" in your correspondence.

The comments received by the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary, along with the survey results and public hearing comments, will be presented to the Board and will be part of the official public hearing record. Please note all statements are releasable to the

public upon request, and may be posted on WMATA's website, without change, including any personal information provided.

For those who do not have access to computers or internet, note that copies of the docket in its entirety can be requested from Metro's Office of the Board Corporate Secretary by calling 202-962-2511, and are available for inspection during normal business hours at Metro's Headquarters at 300 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024. Please call 202-962-2511 in advance to schedule an appointment.

WHAT IS PROPOSED

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) proposes to modify a vent shaft of the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail station (Proposed Project), which serves the Capital One Arena and Chinatown neighborhood of Washington, DC. The vent shaft modification for the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station would allow for future construction activity over the existing vent sidewalk grate.

Vent Shaft Modification

The proposed project is located within the construction perimeter of the Capital One Arena Modernization project that includes the Gallery Place Expansion. WMATA's Gallery Place – Chinatown Metrorail Station is within the vicinity of this project. The WMATA vent shaft is proposed to be modified, however there will be no significant changes to the operational aspects to the vent shaft system of the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail station.

The relief vent shaft for the WMATA tunnel is to be extended towards the east, to allow for future construction activity over the existing vent sidewalk grate. Rather than the existing sidewalk grate to discharge the air from the vent shaft, there will be a sidewall louver at the face of the building. The construction of the vent shaft extension will take place while the existing relief vent is active, and it is anticipated there will be no down time to the system.

REFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

The docket consists of this Notice of Public Hearing, an environmental report, and general plans for the Vent Shaft Modification to the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station. These documents are available online at <https://wmata.com/plansandprojects> and may be inspected during normal business hours at the following location:

WMATA, Office of the Secretary
300 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024
202-962-2511
(Please call in advance to coordinate)

You can also request to have these materials mailed to you by calling the Office of the Secretary at 202-962-2511.

WMATA COMPACT REQUIREMENTS

WMATA's Compact requires that the Board, in amending the mass transit plan, consider current and prospective conditions in the transit zone should the project be built. The transit zone includes DC and considerations include, without limitation, land use, population, economic factors affecting development plans, existing and proposed transportation and transit facilities, any dislocation of families or businesses; preservation of the beauty and dignity of the DC Metro Area; factors affecting environmental amenities and aesthetics, and financial resources. The mass transit plan encompasses, among other things, transit facilities to be provided by WMATA, including stations and parking facilities, and the character, nature, design, location and capital and operating cost thereof. The mass transit plan, in addition to designating the design and location of transit facilities, also provides for capital and operating expenses, as well as "various other factors and considerations, which, in the opinion of the Board, justify and require the projects therein proposed" all as more particularly set forth in WMATA's Compact.

The environmental report and general plans for the project are available for public review at the locations identified in the reference materials section above.

The work and changes depicted in this information package constitute the proposed amendment to the mass transit plan for purposes of the WMATA Compact.

Appendix B – Comments

Attachment 1 – Public Hearing Transcript

Attachment 2 – Website Comments

Attachment 1- Public Hearing Transcript

MS. SPRING WORTH

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I call this meeting to order.

I am Spring Worth, Director serving on the WMATA Board of Directors, and I represent the District of Columbia. I welcome you to this public hearing.

Before we go further, I want to recognize the following officials who are with us tonight, Jennifer Ellison, Corporate Secretary for Metro's Board of Directors, and John Pasek, Assistant Board Secretary, and Alan Watson, Metro's Director, Capital Improvement Programs, and Jim Ashe, Metro's Director, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Elvio Caporuscio, Senior Capital Program Manager. Mr. Caporuscio will give tonight's staff presentation.

This hearing is convened by the Metro Board of Directors to gather public comments on Docket R25-01, proposed Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification.

The agenda for tonight's meeting is shown on the screen.

Notice of this hearing was made by publication in the Washington Post.

Information, including the Notice of Public Hearing, the environmental report, and the General Plans are available at WMATA offices and posted at wmata.com/plansandprojects.

Additional information can be found the Capital One Arena Project Website.

The purpose of the hearing tonight is to gather comments on the proposed Vent Shaft Modification at the Gallery Place Metrorail Station.

Briefly, I will cover the procedures that we will follow during the hearing.

We will hear from those of you who have signed up to give testimony.

Please call 1-206-899-2028 and enter code 529 975 140# if you wish to speak. Again, call 1-206-899-2028 and enter code 529 975 140# if you wish to speak.

Elected public officials will be allowed five minutes and everyone else will be allowed three minutes each.

Extra time will be given for translation, if needed.

There is a timer here that will count down how much time you have left to speak. It will give you a warning beep when you have 20 seconds left and will beep continuously when your time is up.

I want to take a moment to recognize that this is where we listen to *you*. This is your opportunity to comment on the proposal, and we are here to listen.

We will not be able to answer questions during your testimony. If you have questions, please contact staff at speak@wmata.com.

Before you begin your remarks, please state your name and the organization you represent, if any.

Please note that all statements, including any personal information such as name, email address, address, or telephone number you provide in the statement, are releasable to the public upon request, and may be posted on WMATA's website, without change, including any personal information provided.

Further testimony may be submitted and must be received by 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21st.

This testimony may be submitted online at wmata.com/plansandprojects.

Or mailed to:

Office of the Board Corporate Secretary, SECT 2E, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
Authority
P.O. Box 44390, Washington, DC 20026-4390

If you have any questions about the different ways to provide testimony, please contact Metro staff.

Your comments will become part of the public record that will be reviewed by the Metro Board of Directors.

Changes to the options presented here tonight may be proposed in response to testimony received and subsequent staff analysis.

The public comment period will close January 21st.

I now call on Mr. Caporuscio for the staff presentation.

MR. ELVIO CAPORUSCIO

Thank you, Ms. Worth.

WMATA is proposing the modification of the vent shaft of Gallery Place Chinatown Metrorail station, serving the Capital One Arena/ Chinatown neighborhood of Washington, DC.

The vent shaft relocation for the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metrorail Station would allow for future construction activity over the existing vent sidewalk grate.

The renderings shown here detail the planned improvements to Gallery Place Mall, adjacent to Capital One Arena, which would improve access to the Arena.

The first rendering is showing the view from the south toward Gallery Place. The new vent shaft location is at the east side of the alley.

This rendering is showing the view from the north looking toward Capital one arena. The new vent shaft location is shown.

Project Partners are the DC Government, Capital One Arena, and Monumental Sports, who are in process of design work for the Arena Modernization and Gallery Place access improvements.

An environmental report for the project has been prepared and is available for review online.

The analysis indicates no substantial, permanent impact,

There will be moderate impacts during construction. These impacts include changes to traffic patterns, air quality, and noise.

This concludes the staff presentation.

MS. SPRING WORTH

Thank you, Mr. Caporuscio. And now it's time to call the first witness.

As a reminder, Public Officials are given 5 minutes to talk. All others are given 3 minutes

Is there anyone else present who wishes to speak tonight?

No one at the compact hearing provided oral testimony.

After tonight, written comments in writing or by email to the addresses shown here.

The public comment period will close January 21st. WMATA anticipates issuing the Staff report for public comment in February. The project team anticipates that project will be submitted to the WMATA Board of Directors in March.

This hearing is now concluded. Thank you and good night.

Attachment 2 – Website Comments

Please provide your comments in the box below:

01/09/2025 136439563 I support the vent shaft relocation

12/31/2024 136367384 Please share a photo (image and sketch of proposed changes) so that the public can clearly understand the proposed change!

12/20/2024 136314174 I am in favor of the vent relocation since it will not impact rail service and allow for more development in the area around the metro station.

Appendix C- Public hearing Presentation

Washington Metropolitan
Area Transit Authority

January 9, 2025

Gallery Place Vent

Shaft Modification

WMATA Compact Public Hearing

R25-01



RD OR SV BL YL GR metrobus metro  access



Agenda

- Purpose of Public Hearing
- Proposed Changes to Metro Facilities
 - Project overview
 - Environmental impacts
- Public Comments
- Next Steps

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification

Para recibir información sobre este proyecto, sírvase llamar a la línea de servicio al cliente de Metro al 202-637-1328.

ስለዚህ ፕሮጀክት ተጨማሪ መረጃ ለማግኘት እባክዎ ሜትሮ ደንበኛ አገልግሎት መስመር ይደውሉ 202-637-1328.

想要获取该项目的更多信息，请致电地铁客户服务热线 202-637-1328。

想要獲取有關此項目的其他信息，請致電地鐵客戶服務專線202-637-1328。

Reference Materials

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification

WMATA Compact Public Hearing Materials:
<https://www.wmata.com/plansandprojects>

Capital One Arena Project Website:
<https://www.capitalonearena.com/arena-info/arena-transform>

Purpose of Hearing

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification

- To obtain public input on the proposed vent shaft modification to Gallery Place Metrorail Station, located at 6th Street NW and G Street NW, in Washington, DC.

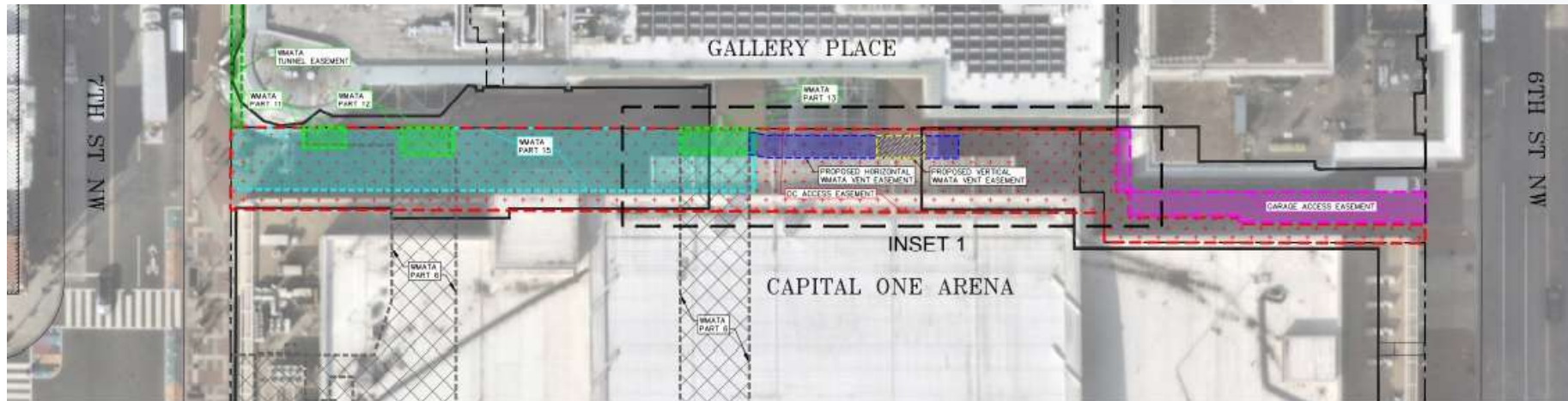
Written Testimony

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification

- Further testimony may be submitted and must be received by 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21st.
- This testimony may be submitted online at <https://wmata.com/plansandprojects>
- Or mailed to:
Office of the Board Corporate Secretary, SECT 2E,
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
P.O. Box 44390, Washington, DC 20026-4390

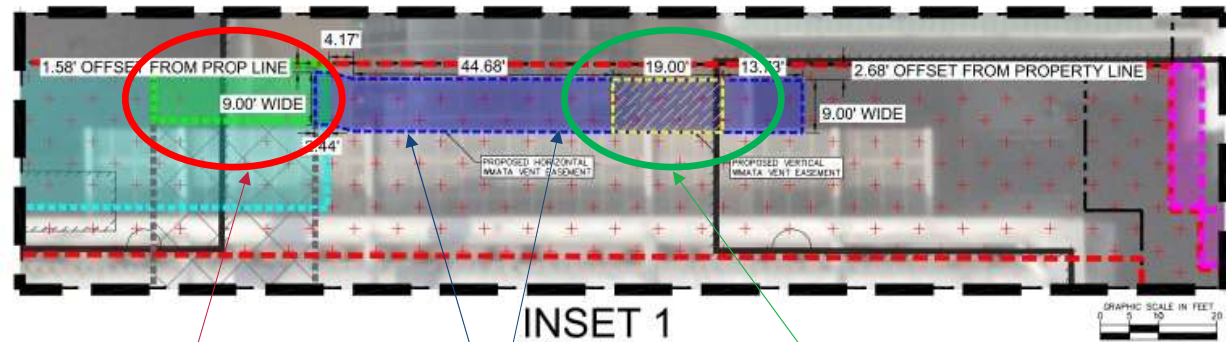
Proposed Vent Shaft Modification

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification



LEGEND:

- EXISTING BUILDING FACE
- - - PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- [Cross-hatched] EXISTING WMATA EASEMENT >20' BELOW GRADE
- [Light blue dashed] EXISTING WMATA ACCESS EASEMENT
- [Light green dashed] EXISTING WMATA VENT EASEMENT
- [Light green dashed] EXISTING WMATA TUNNEL EASEMENT
- [Red dashed] EXISTING DC ACCESS EASEMENT
- [Pink dashed] EXISTING GARAGE ACCESS EASEMENT
- [Blue dashed] PROPOSED HORIZONTAL WMATA VENT EASEMENT
- [Purple dashed] PROPOSED VERTICAL WMATA VENT EASEMENT



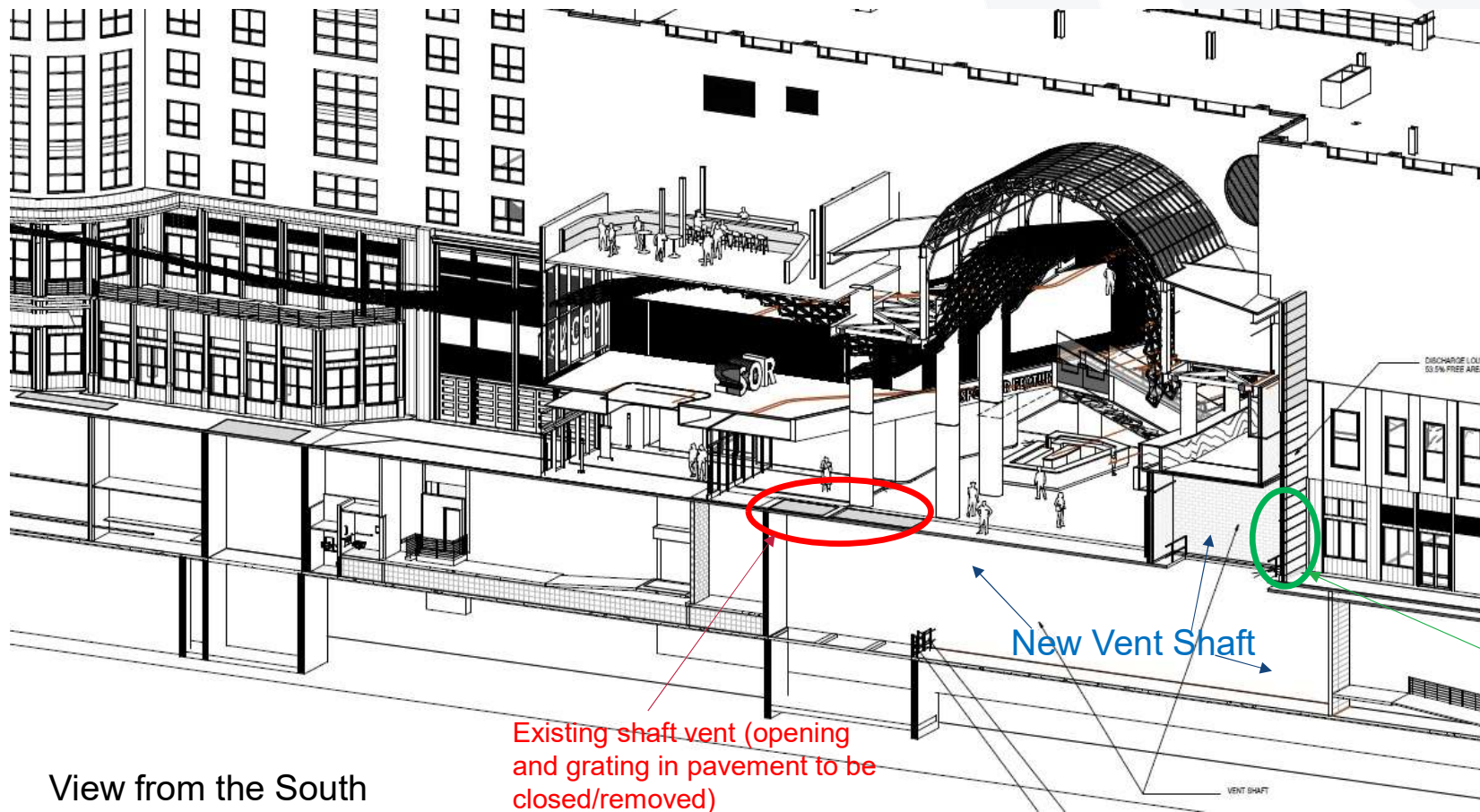
Existing shaft vent (opening and grating in pavement to be closed/removed)

New Vent Shaft

New shaft vent location (louver on wall)

Proposed Vent Shaft Modification

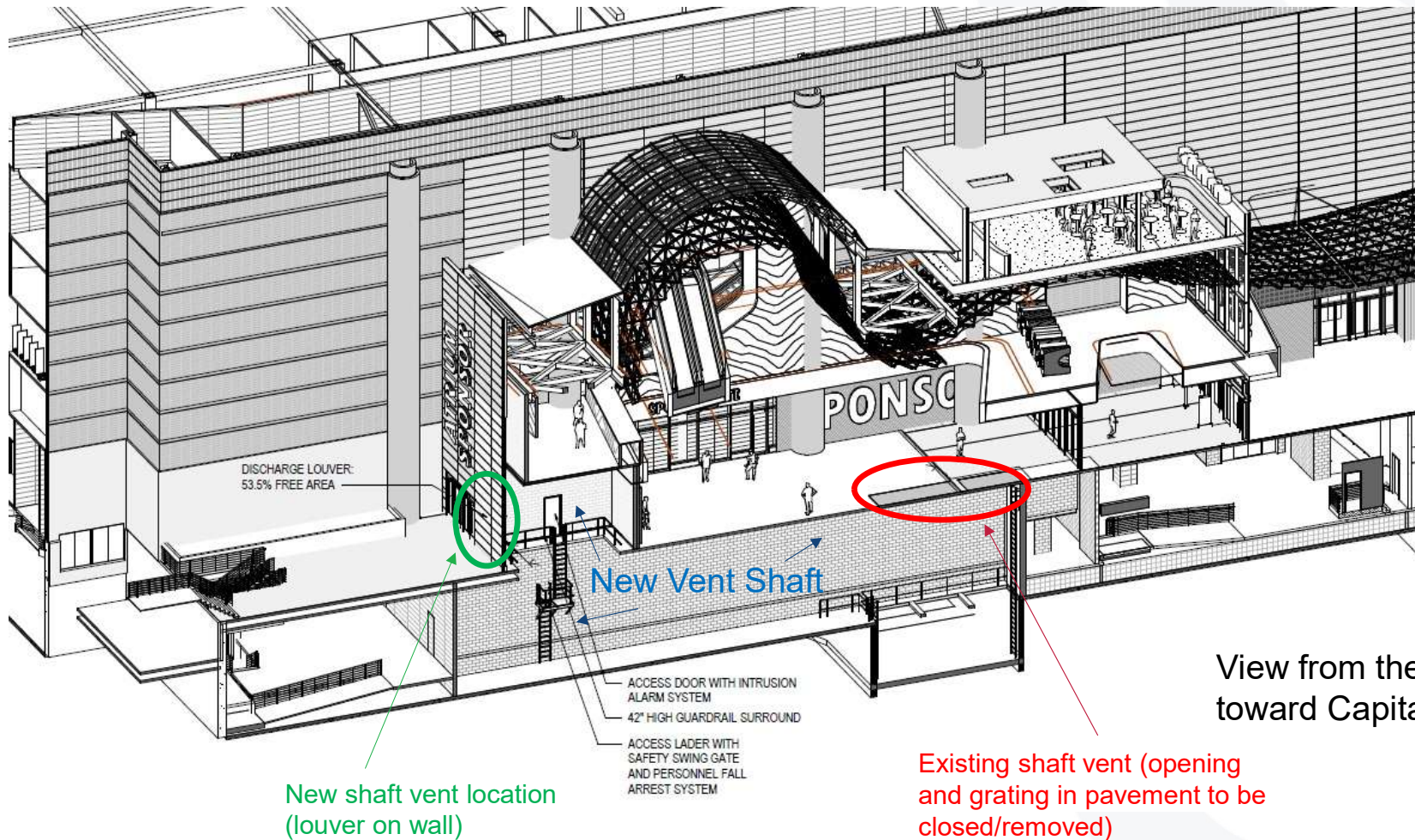
Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification



View from the South
toward Gallery Place

Proposed Vent Shaft Modification

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification



Project Partners

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification



Environmental Analysis

- An Environmental Evaluation for the new station has been completed and is provided as part of the Docket. Likely environmental impacts are summarized in the table below.

Environmental Resource	Permanent Impacts	Construction-Related (Temporary) Impacts	Minimization & Mitigation Efforts
Transportation	None	Disruption to pedestrian and vehicular traffic.	Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan to reroute surface traffic, as appropriate
Air Quality	None	Emissions from on-site diesel equipment and increased truck traffic; fugitive dust	Contractor will employ best management practices for mitigation and minimization
Noise	None	Vent shaft wall demolition	Construction noise monitoring to ensure compliance with WMATA noise limits; perimeter noise wall during construction; minimizing nighttime work to the extent possible.
Historic Districts	None	None	Permitting for this project will be coordinated by the construction contractor

Hearing procedures

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification

- Public officials: 5 minutes each
- Private citizens: 3 minutes each
- Relinquishing of time by one speaker to another speaker is not allowed
- Call **206-899-2028** and enter code **529 975 140#**

Written Comments

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification

- Must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025
- Reference “Gallery Place Vent Shaft” in the subject line
 - **Online:** <https://wmata.com/plansandprojects>
 - **By mail:**

Office of the Board Corporate Secretary, SECT 2E
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
P.O. Box 44390, Washington, DC 20026-4390.

Next Steps

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification

Dates	Milestone
January 21, 2025	Close of Public Comment Period
February 2025	Draft Staff Report posted on Metro's website for public comment
February 2025	Close of Draft Staff Report Public Comment Period (10 days after website posting)
March 2025	Presentation to WMATA Board of Directors for approval

Gallery Place Vent Shaft Modification

Thank you!

Washington Metropolitan
Area Transit Authority