

March 19, 2025, Community Meeting Q&A

Meeting Summary:

The Northern Bus Garage Reconstruction Project team hosted its virtual winter community meeting on March 19, 2025. During the meeting, the team provided an overview of the project, updates on construction progress, and environmental management progress. This Q&A document addresses both the questions that were answered during the meeting and those that remain unanswered. A recording of this meeting is available at wmata.com/northernbusgarage.

Project Overview and Updates

Q: Where is the sewer installation located?

A: Sewer installation is currently on Iowa Avenue. We expect work to be completed at the end of March/early April.

Q: What activity occurred at the site on MLK Jr Day? There were at least a dozen people onsite and working.

A: Because this was a federal holiday incorporated into the construction schedule, we should not have been working. We will communicate this concern to the contractor.

Environmental Management Update:

Q: Please explain what dust control measures were deployed.

A: Our main solution for dust issues is spraying water, especially if it is windy.

Q: Are there any updates on the oil leakage discovery?

A: The first round of groundwater samples has been collected from the installed wells. A second round of samples will be collected in May. Once we have two data sets, WMATA will develop an assessment of the risk posed by contaminants in the groundwater. We will contact DOEE to discuss next steps, including setting remediation levels and further investigation.

Q: What is the status of the decorative and well-lit lighting for the pathway along Iowa Avenue and 14 Street?

A: We did not prepare information to present to the community on this subject, but we will review this issue at a future meeting.

Q: Do we have additional information about the retail/commercial spaces?

A: We do not have additional information at this time.

Q: When were the chlorinated solvents found in the soil? We see dirt on Iowa Avenue due to construction activity. How can we be assured it is not carcinogenic?

A: Chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs) were identified in soil samples on site, notably in the southern portion of the site near Buchanan Street (away from Iowa Avenue). Contamination is apparently moving from northwest to southeast, toward the intersection of Arkansas and Buchanan Street. We continue to review the data from the site.

Q: Can the residents be compensated for dirty porches as a result of the dirty air?

A: WMATA continues to operate the site according to the municipal regulations of the District of Columbia. We are unaware of any compensation program.

Q: Can you please repeat the details of the Open House?

A: The event will be an open house format with exhibits of potential layouts of the future community room, as well as discussion about potential topics. It will be an opportunity for the community to provide us with their input on the historic exhibits and how they should be presented.

What to Expect in 2025 & Beyond:

Q: Is this project team concerned about the changes in the political climate, as it relates to WMATA funding?

A: As far as we are concerned, as a project, there's no change moving forward. The project is funded, and we're advancing the work.

Q: Are you all anticipating any effects on the new tariffs that have been placed on construction materials?

A: We are working with our partners on any potential impacts to Northern related to tariffs. We will continue assessing the economic climate to understand the impacts.

Q: There are several other projects around WMATA Northern Bus Garage reconstruction project. Since the garage isn't expected to open until 2027, is there a timeline for connecting the previous rough-in work at 14th Street and Colorado Avenue for the charging stations and the bus turn around?

A: Coordination between WMATA and Pepco regarding the connection of the electrical service is actively ongoing. WMATA has provided a schedule to Pepco to facilitate the provision of the Battery Electric Bus (BEB) service, Building service and Retail service to the facility. This collaboration ensures that the

necessary infrastructure will be in place to support bus operations, admin, and retail once the Northern Bus Garage reconstruction is complete, and the facility is ready to open.

Q: Do you anticipate delays?

A: The project team is finalizing the design. Once that is complete, we will select vendors, determine delivery dates, and understand the installation, testing, and commissioning impacts. We're actively working with contractors and expect to have information soon. We're also anticipating the permit from Department of Buildings and will communicate any potential schedule impacts once the design is finalized.

Q: Where does the commercial component come in on the timeline?

A: We're actively working to assess the impact of the retail aspect on the project and explore the possibility of releasing it separately. While we do not have a date yet, we're focused on minimizing impacts to the commercial and community space and coordinating with the contractor to understand the full impact on the schedule and operations.

Q: What is the timeline for the electrification of the Northern Bus Garage itself?

A: The garage currently does not have the battery electric buses. We are working right now to finalize the design and working with the contract to get a vendor onboard. We hope to have an update in the next few months.

Q: What is acceptance testing and what is it for?

A: The acceptance testing is for building systems such as the HVAC systems and the plus wash different barrier system.