



**Notice of Public Hearing  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
Proposed Changes to Transit Facilities at  
Congress Heights Metro Station  
Washington, DC  
Docket R23-04**

**Purpose**

**Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on proposed changes to transit facilities at the Congress Heights Metro Station in Washington, DC as follows:**

Hearing No. 653

**Monday, September 25, 2023**

**Open House 6 p.m.                      Public Hearing 6:30 p.m.**

R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center  
2730 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20032

***This hearing will also be conducted virtually, and testimony can be provided via phone or video (see below). The hearing can be viewed online at:***

**[youtube.com/metroforward](https://youtube.com/metroforward)**

**To listen via telephone: (206) 899-2028, Meeting Code 114 471 961#**

Please note that this date is subject to cancellation. In the event of a cancellation, Metro will post information about the rescheduled hearing on [wmata.com](https://wmata.com)

Sign language interpretation will be provided. Any individual who requires special assistance or additional accommodation to participate in this public hearing, 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  
[wmata.com/plansandprojects](https://wmata.com/plansandprojects)



## **PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) regarding the environmental report and general plans for changes to transit facilities at the Congress Heights Metro Station, Washington, D.C. At the hearing, WMATA will receive and consider public comments and suggestions about the proposal. The proposed design concepts may change as a result of this hearing.

## **HOW TO REGISTER TO SPEAK AT THE PUBLIC HEARING**

All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to the proposal will be afforded the opportunity to present their views and 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 the hearing are encouraged to pre-register by emailing [speak@wmata.com](mailto:speak@wmata.com) or calling (202) 962-2511 by 11 a.m. on Monday, September 25, 2023. Please submit only one speaker's name per request. Advance registration to provide in-person testimony is not required.

**By videoconference:** Individuals wishing to provide testimony during the hearing via videoconference are required to furnish, in writing, their name and organizational affiliation, if any, via email to [speak@wmata.com](mailto:speak@wmata.com) by 11 a.m. on Monday, September 25, 2023. Please submit only one speaker's name per request.

**By telephone:** Individuals should call (206) 899-2028 during the hearing and enter Meeting Code 114 471 961#. Advance registration to provide testimony via telephone is not available.

## **HOW TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY NOT AT THE PUBLIC HEARING**

Testimony may be submitted online about this proposal at [wmata.com/plansandprojects](https://wmata.com/plansandprojects). Options to submit testimony online include completing a survey, providing written comments or uploading letters or other documents. Online submission will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 26, 2023 and will close on Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 5 p.m. 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 Secretary by 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2023 to be included in the public record.

The comments received by the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary, along with the online submissions and public hearing comments, will be presented to the WMATA Board of Directors and will be part of the official public hearing record. Please note all statements are releasable to the public and may be posted on WMATA's website, without change, including any personal information provided.

## **WHAT IS PROPOSED**

Metro proposes changes (“Modifications”) to the Congress Heights Metro Station (“Metro Station”) transit facilities to enable access improvements and real estate development envisioned in the District of Columbia’s St. Elizabeths East Campus Master Plan and grow ridership. A core infrastructure component of the St. Elizabeths East Campus project is construction of a new campus entrance from Alabama Avenue.

The Modifications include:

- Reconfiguration of the bus loop to improve access and safety
- Relocation of the Kiss & ride lot to on-street facility
- Reduction of Kiss & Ride capacity to eight (8) spaces
- Addition of a new traffic signal at the bus loop exit on Alabama Ave

The Modifications to the transit facilities and facility access will be funded through District of Columbia’s Office for the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. The District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) also proposes to include a new library facility at the Congress Heights Metro station that could be constructed adjacent to the reconfigured bus loop.

In accordance with the WMATA Compact, the Modifications require an Environmental Evaluation (“EE”) to assess the potential effects of this action on the human and natural environment in terms of transportation, social, economic, and environmental factors. Impacts identified in the EE are summarized in **Table 1** (see next page).

For more information, please refer to the provided Environmental Evaluation.

**Table 1. Environmental Impacts of Modifications**

<b>Environmental Feature</b>	<b>Permanent Impacts</b>	<b>Construction-Related (Temporary) Impacts</b>	<b>Minimization &amp; Mitigation Efforts</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<p>Reconfiguration of the bus facilities will re-distribute bus movements over multiple intersections and is not anticipated to impact traffic.</p> <p>Reduction of Kiss &amp; Ride spaces will generate less traffic at the station and align with pick-up/drop-off demand.</p> <p>The new traffic signal at the busway exit loop from 13<sup>th</sup> Street SE onto Alabama Avenue SE will improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists accessing the station.</p>	<p>Disruption to pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular circulation during construction.</p>	<p>Interim locations for bus services, pick-up/drop-off, and bicyclist and pedestrian access will be maintained at all times during construction.</p> <p>Traffic controls and signage to be updated to reflect changes to bus and Kiss &amp; Ride facilities.</p> <p>Customers seeking longer-term parking options will be directed to use Park &amp; Ride facilities at Southern Ave or Anacostia Stations. Other on-street parking options may also be created as part of the St. Elizabeth's East Campus Master Plan.</p>
<b>Stormwater</b>	<p>None. The total impervious areas of transit facilities to be reduced.</p>	<p>Minor sediment or erosion risk.</p>	<p>Controls to be applied per DC requirements.</p>
<b>Air Quality and Noise</b>	<p>No impacts resulting from changes to transit facilities.</p>	<p>Dust or noise from construction-related equipment and operation.</p>	<p>Cleaning, minimizing night-time work, noise control measures.</p>

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION**

The docket consists of this Notice of Public Hearing, an environmental report, and general plans for the proposed changes to transit facilities at the Congress Heights Metro Station. These documents are available online at [wmata.com/plansandprojects](http://wmata.com/plansandprojects) and may be inspected during normal business hours at the following location:

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

## **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 the District of Columbia 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.