



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of January 20, 2024

**DATE:** January 2, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Agreement between the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the Arlington County Board for the Bus Bay Expansion at the East Falls Church Metro Station

### C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve the attached Project Coordination Agreement (PCA) for the Bus Bay Expansion at the East Falls Church Metro Station (“Project”) in an amount not to exceed \$527,681 which includes WMATA’s cost estimate of \$479,710 and a 10% contingency of \$47,971.
2. Authorize the County Manager to execute the Agreement subject for approval as to form by County Attorney.

**ISSUES:** There are no issues associated with Board approval of this Agreement.

**SUMMARY:** Arlington County is leading the design and construction of the Bus Bay Expansion at the East Falls Church Metro Station (“Project”) in coordination with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). The County’s project team seeks approval from the County Board to execute the attached PCA, which specifies the terms and conditions under which the County will construct the Project and coordinate with WMATA. The Agreement provides for the County to pay WMATA for its staff support, and other associated costs required during construction. The Project is included in Arlington County’s adopted Capital Improvement Plan (“CIP”). Funding agreements with WMATA require County Board approval.

**BACKGROUND:** Arlington County is sponsoring this Project in coordination with WMATA who owns the Metrorail Station, bus loop and park-and-ride. The Project will expand bus loop capacity, improve bus operations, and enhance pedestrian access at the East Falls Church Metro Station.

The East Falls Church Metro Station bus loop is located at the intersection of North Sycamore Street and Washington Boulevard with the entrance/exit located at North Sycamore Street and the I-66 westbound ramp. The bus loop has four bus bays that are at maximum capacity. WMATA Metrobus, ART – Arlington Transit and Fairfax Connector operate bus service for

County Manager:

MJS / MJC

County Attorney:

MNC

Staff: Robin McElhenny – Department of Environmental Services

eight routes out of the existing East Falls Church bus loop: three WMATA Metrobus routes, three ART – Arlington Transit bus routes, and two Fairfax Connector bus routes.

The Project will increase bus bay capacity by adding three new bus bays and replacing the existing shelters in the off-street bus loop and will optimize existing bus operations, allow for future additional routes and passengers, upgrade the physical condition of the bus loop pavement, and sidewalks, and enhance landscape and stormwater management. The Project will also include pedestrian access improvements from the Metro park-and-ride lot, improvements to the existing accessible parking, crosswalks and curb ramps, and replacement of the traffic signal at the entrance to the bus loop on North Sycamore Street.

**DISCUSSION:** The Project must be designed and constructed in accordance with WMATA's standards, guidelines, and policies. As such, the County's project team will coordinate with WMATA throughout construction and project close-out. WMATA will incur costs during construction for its staff to review and approve construction submittals and Request for Information (RFIs), provide construction oversight and safety certification. The attached Agreement describes WMATA's construction requirements and review process, WMATA's reimbursement requirements and payment terms, and the County's project accounting requirements for the Project. The Agreement also defines the County's roles and responsibilities and WMATA's roles and responsibilities for the Project.

WMATA's current reimbursement Policy (Resolution 99-63) for capital projects requires jurisdictional members to provide advance payment of funds for WMATA to perform any service or incur any costs.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

### *Level of Engagement:*

Communicate. This level of engagement is appropriate for this action because the proposed action will advance the project through construction. The community will be informed of upcoming construction activities including Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plans.

### *Outreach Methods:*

The project scope included in the construction contract includes provisions to keep the public informed during construction, including impacts to adjacent properties and overall progress. Additionally, the project web page will be updated periodically to provide project updates.

### *Community Feedback:*

In March 2022, the County project team held a virtual community meeting to present the initial concept design for the bus bay expansion. The presentation was accompanied by an online feedback form on the County's website to solicit feedback on the proposed design. The project team received 92 responses and 30 location-specific comments on an interactive map.

Overall, public response indicated support for the proposed concept design. Respondents generally found the presented plans to be safer for all modes of transportation when compared to existing conditions.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The Bus Bay Expansion at East Falls Church Metro Station is included in the County's FY 2023 – 2032 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) under Transportation, Transit with a total budget of \$9,074,000; the budget was revised in January 2023 to \$12,667,000. The total cost estimate of \$527,681 for WMATA's Project Coordination Agreement is within the total CIP Project Budget of \$12,667,000 and will be from previously approved state and local funding. This cost estimate includes \$479,710 for WMATA's cost and a 10% contingency of \$47,971.

WMATA expenditures will be charged to the following account:  
331.437405.43515.M43.0000.0000.