

Appendix A: Notice of Public Hearing



**Notice of Public Hearing
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Proposed Southern Avenue Bus Garage Replacement
Prince George's County, MD
Docket R11-02**

Purpose

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, in conjunction with the Federal Transit Administration, on a proposed replacement of the existing Southern Avenue Bus Garage in Prince George's County, MD as follows:

Hearing No. 563
Wednesday, July 27, 2011
Andrew Jackson Academy
3500 Regency Parkway
Forestville, MD 20747
(Metrobus Routes D12, 13, 14)

**Hearing scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.
Open house at 6:30 p.m.**

This location is wheelchair accessible. Any individual who requires special assistance such as a sign language interpreter or additional accommodation to participate in the public hearing, or who requires these materials in an alternate format, should contact Danise Peña at 202-962-2511 or TTY: 202-638-3780 as soon as possible in order for Metro to make necessary arrangements.

For more information please visit
www.southernavebusgarage.com
and www.wmata.com/hearings



PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), in conjunction with the Federal Transit Administration, regarding the Environmental Assessment and plans for the proposed replacement of the existing Southern Avenue Bus Garage in Prince George's County, MD. 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.

REFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

The Environmental Assessment and plans for the proposed replacement of the bus garage are available online at www.southernavebusgarage.com and www.wmata.com/hearings and may be inspected during normal business hours at the following locations beginning Monday, June 27, 2011:

WMATA
Office of the Secretary
600 Fifth Street, NW, Room 2D-207
Washington, DC 20001
202-962-2511
(Please call in advance to coordinate)

Suitland Community Center
5600 Regency Lane
Forestville, MD 20747
301-736-3518

Fairmount Heights Library
5904 Kolb Street
Fairmount Heights, MD 20743
301-883-2650

Hillcrest Heights Library
2398 Iverson Street
Temple Hills, MD 20748
301-630-4900

Morningside Matthew P. Rosch Municipal Center
6901 Ames Street
Suitland, MD 20746
301-736-2300

Oakcrest Community Center
1300 Capitol Heights Blvd
Capitol Heights, MD 20743
301-736-5355

John E. Howard Community Center
4400 Shell Street
Capitol Heights, MD 20743
301-735-3340

WHAT IS PROPOSED

WMATA proposes the replacement of the existing Southern Avenue Bus Garage, which would enable the continuation and improvement of bus service to communities throughout the District of Columbia and the southern portion of Prince George's County by accommodating modern Metrobuses and providing for recent and future increases in system capacity. This action would further the vision and existing plans adopted by WMATA by supporting Metrobus ridership growth and network expansion.

WMATA is considering three sites for the proposed bus garage. The three sites are located within Prince George's County, Maryland, within approximately 5 miles of each other. To meet WMATA's program requirements, the selected site must be able to provide for the following:

- A fleet of up to 250 Metrobuses;
- Maintenance and administrative building;
- Employee parking;
- Service lane facility where fueling, washing, and fare box collections are conducted;
- Compressed natural gas fueling facility;
- Perimeter and other landscaping;
- Security fencing or other security measures; and
- Storm water management measures.

Project Alternatives:

Three alternatives have been identified for the proposed replacement of the Southern Avenue Bus Garage. WMATA is considering developer proposals to develop a new bus operations and maintenance facility at two alternative site locations in Prince George's County, Maryland, located within 5 miles of the existing facility, as well as a third option of rebuilding the facilities at the existing site.

Alternative A (Rena Road)

Alternative A is approximately 36 acres in size, and is located northwest of the Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility and southwest of the intersection of Suitland Parkway and the Capital Beltway (I-95/I-495). This site would be part of a larger, planned industrial park known as Andrews Federal Campus that is beginning construction. However, the site proposed for the WMATA facility is currently a wooded, undeveloped site.

Alternative B (Westphalia Road)

Alternative B is approximately 52.5 acres in size, and is located northeast of the intersection of Suitland Parkway and the Capital Beltway (I-95/I-495). The site was used originally as a Pepco Production and Training Facility, and consists of a 100,000 square-foot shop and warehouse space, a 50,000 square-foot two-story office space, a two-lane access road, and 295 parking spaces.

Alternative C (Southern Avenue)

Alternative C would rebuild the existing facilities at Southern Avenue on approximately 8.2 acres. The rebuild would require that the existing facility be closed during construction. All current functions would be moved to the planned Shepherd Parkway Bus Garage temporarily.

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 Prince George's County/Southeast District of Columbia area around the site 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.

An Environmental Assessment was prepared by WMATA to provide the environmental documentation required under the WMATA Compact, as well as by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This document, along with a more detailed description of the project proposal, is available for public review at the locations indicated in the reference materials section above.

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. In order to establish a witness list, individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to be heard at the public hearing are requested to furnish in writing their name and organization affiliation, if any, via email to speak@wmata.com. The request may also be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Alternatively, you may fax this information to 202-962-1133. Please submit only one speaker's name per letter. Lists of individual speakers will not be accepted. Please note that this information may be releasable to the public under the WMATA Public Access to Records Policy (PARP). The PARP can be viewed on WMATA's website at wmata.com/about_metro/public_rr.cfm under the link marked "Legal Affairs". Public officials will be heard first and 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.

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Written statements and exhibits must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, August 8, 2011 by the Office of the Secretary and may be emailed to writtentestimony@wmata.com. They may also be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Alternatively, statements may be faxed to 202-962-1133. Please reference the Hearing or Docket Number in your submission. Please note that any personal information such as name, e-mail address, address, or telephone number you provide in the statement may be releasable to the public under the WMATA Public Access to Records Policy, available at the website link noted above.