April 8, 2022

RE: Purpose and Nature of Proposed Douglas St NE Cul-de-Sac Closing

To Whom It May Concern:

First built in 1962, the Bladensburg Bus Garage sits on 17.59 acres bounded by Bladensburg Road NE, 25th Place NE, Douglas Street NE, and a CSX railroad Right of Way. Today, the facility is one of Metro’s oldest assets and home to some 260 buses and support vehicles. Nearly 500 employees on-site oversee bus repairs, maintenance, and inspections at this location.

WMATA is engaged in the redesign and reconstruction of the existing Bus Garage. This redesign will achieve a number goals. The new garage will continue to provide important services like maintenance space, parts storage, and employee amenities. It will also incorporate environmental and infrastructure improvements necessary to support additional buses. It will dramatically improve parking accommodations by allowing the creation of 200 40-foot-long bus spaces, 100 articulated bus spaces, and 560 employee spaces. Finally, the new garage will allocate space for electric bus infrastructure in the future (i.e. charging locations), consistent with Metro’s zero-emission bus plan.

Historically, the Bladensburg Bus Garage Property (Square 4350 Lot 0006), was a series of unconsolidated lots and squares. Beginning in the 1960’s, WMATA consolidated these various properties into a single Property. In support of this consolidation, the DC Office of the Surveyor closed those portions of 26th Street NE and Douglas Street NE that were contained within the larger Property. Douglas Street NE was redesigned to terminate in a cul-de-sac that would allow for U-turns (Figure 1).
WMATA's planned reconstruction of the Bladenburg Bus Garage will modernize the facility and improve essential bus operations and maintenance. In order to maximize bus parking, WMATA has worked closely with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Office of Planning (OP) to shift the facility’s main entrance on Bladensburg Road to the north, in alignment with Channing Street NE. This will allow for a drive aisle to be relocated along the facility’s northeast property line. This relocation of the drive aisle will require the closure of the portion of the Douglas Street cul-de-sac that encroaches upon the Property’s NE boundary (Figure 2).
WMATA has purchased the 4 properties to the northeast of the site and will reconfigure these properties to facilitate the public's vehicular turning movement. Once constructed, WMATA will issue a public access easement thereby guaranteeing public access to the new "hammerhead" turnaround feature (Figure 3).
If you have concerns about how the proposed closure will affect you or your property, please feel free to reach out to Shaun Pratt at spratt@wmata.com. WMATA request your support for the application to close the Douglas St NE Cul-de-Sac. Please see attached letter of support, sign, and return to WMATA at the following address by 5/15/2022:

Shaun Pratt  
WMATA  
c/o Interagency, Inc  
80 M Street, Ste 100  
Washington DC 20003

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Best,

Shaun Pratt – WMATA