

Fund 40125: Metrorail Parking System Pledged Revenues

Focus The Metrorail Parking System Pledged Revenues Fund was established by the Board of Supervisors on November 18, 2014, to collect and disburse funds related to revenue-generating activities at Metrorail parking facilities owned by and located within the County. These funds will be generated from fees paid at these parking facilities and used to pay operating, maintenance, and debt expenses of the facilities. Previously, these revenues and expenditures were either collected by the County or on behalf of the County by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and budgeted under Fund 40010, County and Regional Transportation Projects, and Fund 40000, County Transit Systems.

In November 2011, the Board of Supervisors agreed to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to participate in Phase II of the Silver Line and to use its “best efforts” to seek funding for the parking garages at Herndon and Innovation Center from sources outside of the shared funding formula agreed to by the funding partners. In that MOA, WMATA agreed in principle to changes in the 1999 Surcharge Agreement that would enable the County to use surcharge revenues to finance those parking facilities.

County staff worked with the staff at WMATA to provide the County direct access to parking surcharge revenue funds generated from County parking garages currently in the WMATA system. At the June 10, 2014, Board Transportation Committee Meeting, County staff provided an update on staff coordination with WMATA to amend surcharge documents, and an overview of the plan of finance to construct the parking garages at Herndon and Innovation Center. Prior to the opening of the Silver Line Phase I, WMATA owned or leased all of the Metrorail parking garages in Fairfax County. The parking facility at the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station is owned by Fairfax County, and the parking facilities at the Herndon and Innovation Center Metrorail Stations will also be owned by Fairfax County. By retaining ownership of the new parking facilities, the County will be able to control future joint development on the sites, and retain all revenues generated from those joint developments.

The Surcharge Agreement provides a mechanism to collect a base fee and a surcharge fee at the five WMATA owned/leased parking facilities in Fairfax County and two additional stations (East Falls Church in Arlington County and Van Dorn in the City of Alexandria). The surcharge fee has been used to pay the debt service on revenue bonds sold by the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (EDA) to finance the prior construction of Metrorail parking facilities in the County. The base parking fee is used by WMATA to operate and maintain the parking facilities. Since the County will own the new parking facilities within its jurisdiction, the agreement needed to be amended so the entire fee at the new facilities would be retained by the County, and the surcharge from the WMATA owned facilities could be used by the County for the County-owned facilities. WMATA and Fairfax County staff worked together to create the Second Amended and Restated Surcharge Implementation Agreement. The major changes to the existing surcharge agreement are summarized below:

- The parking surcharge balance held at WMATA was transferred to the County in June 2015 (minus approximately \$2 million for a 12-month reserve for the current Vienna II garage debt service). The County used this one-time balance transfer of approximately \$21 million to pay current debt service and reduce the amount of debt required to finance the Herndon and Innovation Station parking facilities, which originally had a Total Project Estimate of \$44,500,000 and \$57,400,000, respectively.
- All ongoing surcharge revenues collected at the five WMATA owned parking facilities in Fairfax County plus the East Falls Church and Van Dorn parking facilities will be transferred to the County and used to pay debt service, operating, and maintenance costs.

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- All parking fees collected at Metrorail parking facilities owned by Fairfax County (e.g. Wiehle-Reston East, Herndon, and Innovation Center) will be retained by the County and used to pay debt service, operating, and maintenance expenses.
- The Agreement has been extended so that it will continue until all the costs incurred for the Fairfax County-owned parking spaces have been recovered.
- The County and WMATA agree that the surcharge revenues shall be used for the planning, development, financing (including, but not limited to, the payment of debt service), construction, operation, maintenance, insurance, improvement and expansion of Fairfax County's Metrorail parking facilities and WMATA-controlled parking facilities.
- WMATA acknowledges that the County will set the fees for the County-owned spaces and that the fees shall not be subject to WMATA's approval. On July 1, 2014, the Board of Supervisors established the parking fees for the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail garage, and will continue to do so annually. The rates for the additional parking garages at Herndon and Innovation Center will be added when they become operational.
- WMATA also acknowledges that none of the fees set for County-owned Metrorail parking spaces is a surcharge, and that the County may use those fees for the same purposes allowed for the surcharge funds, except that the County may also use the fees for other parking facilities in the County that provide remote parking spaces for Metrorail patrons.
- Before the agreement was amended, the only outstanding surcharge agreement-related debt was that associated with the Vienna II parking garage through 2020. Absent the amendments that were recommended, the surcharge fee would otherwise be eliminated after the debt service on Vienna II had been defeased. In November 2016, the County utilized a portion of the equity in this fund to pay off the outstanding debt on the Vienna II bonds. Maintaining County access to this revenue surcharge stream is an essential component to the parking revenue bond financing of the Herndon and Innovation Center Station Parking Garages as part of the County's "best efforts" to fund the parking garages, per the 2011 MOA.
- The WMATA Board approved the Second Amended and Restated Surcharge Implementation Agreement on October 23, 2014. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors then approved the Second Amended and Restated Surcharge Implementation Agreement at its meeting on October 28, 2014. Lastly, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution and plan of finance on November 18, 2014, to create the Fairfax County Metrorail Parking System.

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As part of the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Transportation Infrastructure and Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan for the Dulles Metrorail project, Fairfax County received \$403.3 million toward its baseline share of project costs. As a condition to financial closing on the TIFIA loan, a Letter Agreement between USDOT and the County regarding the County's construction of the parking garages at the Herndon and Innovation Center Metrorail Stations was established. The County agreed to complete construction of the parking garages by the WMATA-announced start date of revenue service for Phase II. If the County does not meet this deadline, it is required to prepay any drawn portion of the TIFIA loan plus accrued interest. In the unlikely event the County does not complete construction of the parking garages by the agreed-upon date, staff would recommend a public sale of bonds backed by Fund 40010, County and Regional Transportation Projects, to repay the drawn portion of the County's TIFIA loan. Both the Herndon Station Parking Garage and the Innovation Center Station Parking Garage are completed. This completion is well in advance of anticipated Phase II revenue service and therefore the County does not anticipate any mandatory prepayment of the TIFIA loan.

The Letter Agreement also provides for an uncontrollable force provision (i.e., force majeure), whereby the County would not be held liable for any construction delay to either parking garage that was the result of certain circumstances beyond the control of the County, such as a natural disaster. Lastly, USDOT provided language in the Letter Agreement confirming that no TIFIA loan proceeds have or will be used for the parking garages. Thus, the parking garages have neither been selected nor designated a federally funded project. This provision was requested by the County to ensure that the parking garages would not be subject to federal regulation and oversight, which could cause a significant increase to the cost of constructing the garages and jeopardize the County's current plan of finance and project schedule.

As part of the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee meeting on May 24, 2016, and December 13, 2016, County staff provided an overview of the plan of finance associated with the planned EDA Parking Revenue bond for the Herndon and Innovation Center Station Parking Garages. The EDA and the Board of Supervisors then approved the plan of finance at their respective meetings on January 11, 2017, and January 24, 2017. The bond sale occurred in February 2017 in the amount of \$90.9 million to fund the following: Herndon Station and Innovation Center Station Parking Garages of \$37.9 million and \$37.1 million, respectively, per final construction bids; and \$15.9 million to fund capitalized interest, funding of a debt service reserve, and cost of issuance.

Pandemic Response and Impact

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Metrorail, Metrobus, MetroAccess and Fairfax Connector adjusted service to continue to provide essential trips while mitigating public health concerns. Both Metro and Connector have experienced a significant drop in ridership and parking garage usage. From March 2020 through August 2020, Fairfax Connector operated at a reduced level of service, and suspended fare collection and front door boarding from March 2020 until January 2021 to minimize contact between drivers and passengers. Some Metro stations were closed during the summer of 2020, but all Metro stations are open as of September 2020. Both transit systems will continue to serve passengers and options to return to a typical level of service will be evaluated as the situation evolves and restrictions are changed or lifted. Budget adjustments as a result of the ridership, service changes, and parking garage usage in this fund will be considered if needed as part of a future quarterly review.

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FY 2022 Funding Adjustments

The following funding adjustments from the FY 2021 Adopted Budget Plan are necessary to support the FY 2022 program:

Operational Expenses Adjustment for Herndon and Innovation Parking Garages \$403,000
An increase of \$403,000 is included for estimated operational expenses for the Herndon and Innovation Center Station Parking Garages.

Operational Expenses Adjustment for Wiehle-Reston East Parking Garage \$146,460
An increase of \$146,460 is included for operational expenses for the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Parking Garage.

Debt Service Adjustment (\$1,201,363)
A decrease of \$1,201,363 is included for debt service expenses for the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Parking Garage. This is a result of the Series 2020 Fairfax County Economic Development Authority Revenue Refunding Bonds that reduced annual debt service payments.

Debt Service Adjustment \$1,250
An increase of \$1,250 is included for programmed debt service expenses for the Herndon and Innovation Center Station Parking Garages.

Changes to FY 2021 Adopted Budget Plan

The following funding adjustments reflect all approved changes in the FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan since passage of the FY 2021 Adopted Budget Plan. Included are all adjustments made as part of the FY 2020 Carryover Review, FY 2021 Mid-Year Review, and all other approved changes through December 31, 2020:

Carryover Adjustments \$3,059,804
As part of the FY 2020 Carryover Review, the Board of Supervisors approved funding of \$3,059,804. This is due primarily to the carryover of \$3,877,495 in project balances associated with the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (EDA) Parking Revenue bond sale in February 2017 for the Herndon Metrorail Station Parking Garage and the Innovation Metrorail Center Station Parking Garage. These parking garages will be built, operated, and maintained by the County as part of the agreement for the Silver Line Phase II. This was offset by a reduction in debt service payments of \$965,000 for the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Parking Garage from the May 2020 refinancing for this project; and a net adjustment of \$147,309 for encumbrances with the operations and maintenance of the Wiehle- Reston East Metrorail Parking Garage.

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FUND STATEMENT

Category	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan
Beginning Balance	\$40,528,970	\$23,390,140	\$29,554,980	\$20,314,223
Revenue:				
Wiehle-Reston East Ground Rent ¹	\$2,907,673	\$2,900,000	\$2,900,000	\$2,900,000
Interest on Investments ²	811,726	0	0	0
Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Parking Garage ³	2,288,239	2,500,000	1,250,000	863,254
New Garage Revenue ⁴	0	2,204,319	1,102,160	2,104,089
WMATA Surcharge Parking Fees ⁵	2,697,486	3,600,000	1,800,000	1,701,505
Miscellaneous Revenue ⁶	767,500	0	0	0
Total Revenue	\$9,472,624	\$11,204,319	\$7,052,160	\$7,568,848
Transfer In:				
County and Regional Transportation Projects (40010) ⁷	\$2,594,300	\$0	\$2,206,000	\$0
Total Transfer In	\$2,594,300	\$0	\$2,206,000	\$0
Total Available	\$52,595,894	\$34,594,459	\$38,813,140	\$27,883,071
Expenditures:				
Projects ⁸	\$19,558,664	\$15,439,113	\$18,498,917	\$14,788,460
Capitalized Interest ⁹	3,482,250	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	\$23,040,914	\$15,439,113	\$18,498,917	\$14,788,460
Total Disbursements	\$23,040,914	\$15,439,113	\$18,498,917	\$14,788,460
Ending Balance	\$29,554,980	\$19,155,346	\$20,314,223	\$13,094,611
Debt Service Reserve ¹⁰	\$4,758,500	\$4,758,500	\$4,758,500	\$4,758,500
Unreserved Balance	\$24,796,480	\$14,396,846	\$15,555,723	\$8,336,111

¹ Revenues associated with ground rent at the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station Parking Garage.

² Interest on Investments revenue represents interest revenue associated with the Metrorail Parking System Pledged Revenues projects. An amount of \$811,726 was received in FY 2020.

³ Parking revenues collected at the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station Parking Garage. The *FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan* revenues were decreased by \$1,250,000 to account for the projected loss of parking garage revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional updates will be provided as part of the *FY 2021 Third Quarter Review*.

⁴ Projected parking revenues to be collected at the Herndon and Innovation Center Station Parking Garages. The operations of the Dulles Rail Phase II project are expected to commence in fall 2021 with the exact date determined by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). In addition, the *FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan* revenues were decreased by \$1,102,159 to account for the projected loss of parking garage revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional updates will be provided as part of the *FY 2021 Third Quarter Review*.

⁵ Projected revenues transferred from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) for five WMATA owned/leased parking facilities in Fairfax County (Huntington, West Falls Church, Dunn Loring, Vienna, and Franconia) and two additional stations (East Falls Church in Arlington County and Van Dorn in the City of Alexandria). These revenues will be used by the County to pay debt service for the Herndon and Innovation Center Station Parking Garages. The *FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan* revenues were decreased by \$1,800,000 to account for the projected loss of parking surcharge revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional updates will be provided as part of the *FY 2021 Third Quarter Review*.

⁶ On November 19, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved the sale of a portion of Board-owned property north of Reston Station Boulevard for \$3,070,000 to a developer. Per the conditions to closing from the Federal Transit Administration, the County will set aside \$2,302,500 (75 percent) toward the cost of a future eligible Fairfax County public transportation capital project. The remaining balance of \$767,500 (25 percent) is reflected here to partially offset the required debt service on the bonds issued to finance the construction of the Wiehle-Reston East parking garage, as well as associated operations and maintenance expenses.

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⁷ Provides for the balance of funds required to pay debt service on the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station Parking Garage not covered by ground rent and parking fees. Funding needs will be reviewed as part of the annual budget process as well as the Carryover Review process.

⁸ Construction funding from the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority Parking Revenue bond sale in February 2017 for the Herndon Station Parking Garage (\$37,900,000) and Innovation Center Station Parking Garage (\$37,100,000).

⁹ Capitalized interest for debt service payments from the bond sale in February 2017 to fund construction of the Metrorail parking garage structures at the Herndon and Innovation Center Metrorail stations.

¹⁰ Debt service reserve fund for the parking garage revenue bonds, which was funded at closing of the bond sale in March 2017.

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SUMMARY OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	Total Project Estimate	FY 2020 Actual Expenditures	FY 2021 Revised Budget	FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan
Hern Innov Pkg Facility Debt Service (2G40-167-000)	\$16,480,250	\$3,482,250.00	\$4,757,250.00	\$4,758,500
Herndon Metrorail Parking Facility (TF-000033)	37,900,000	1,084,912.34	3,011,228.52	0
Herndon Pkg Operations and Maintenance (2G40-146-000)	6,084,632	60,894.84	1,175,000.00	1,129,000
Innovation Metrorail Parking Facility (TF-000034)	37,100,000	8,968,456.56	866,266.63	0
Innovation Pkg Operations and Maintenance (2G40-145-000)	1,809,000	0.00	680,000.00	1,129,000
Wiehle Metro Pkg Facility Debt Service (2G40-115-000)	49,845,041	7,694,278.41	6,421,863.00	6,185,500
Wiehle Pkg Operations and Maintenance (2G40-120-000)	10,075,295	1,750,121.62	1,587,308.76	1,586,460
Total	\$159,294,218	\$23,040,913.77	\$18,498,916.91	\$14,788,460