



April 5, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Justin M. Wilson
Mayor
City of Alexandria
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Wilson:

Thank you for your letter dated March 24, 2022 regarding closures associated with the Yellow Line Tunnel/Bridge and Potomac Yard projects. We understand these projects will cause disruptions to the region, but an aggressive capital program is critical to maintain a healthy system and is foundational for maintaining safe and reliable service.

As you mentioned, the Yellow Line Tunnel/Bridge project was announced in March 2021. Over the past year, WMATA has developed the design and conducted numerous site investigations, providing a better understanding of complexities of the project, and allowing the contractor to create a more detailed schedule. The modeling that was done by the contractor indicated that the work requires a seven to eight month closure.

Although the project scope includes Yellow Line bridge bearing and expansion joint replacement, it is the tunnel work that presents the greatest challenges and required duration. For example, the tunnel requires the welding of approximately 1,200 steel plates, a full curtain grouting of the entire exterior surface of the steel-lined tunnel, the removal and replacement of several miles of existing cables that line the walls of the tunnel, the replacement of existing light fixtures, the removal and reinstallation of existing fire line, and a multiple stage coating system to protect the steel liner for the next 50 years.

WMATA has already begun working with Alexandria and the region to plan mitigation measures. A regional kick-off coordination meeting was held on March 29 and monthly meetings have been scheduled. WMATA also plans to work with the regional Public Information Officers (PIOs) to coordinate on communications and public messaging. The final mitigation plan will be available to the public in early June.

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
202/962-1234

*By Metrorail:
Judiciary Square-Red Line
Gallery Place-Chinatown
Red, Green and
Yellow Lines*

*A District of Columbia
Maryland and Virginia
Transit Partnership*

The Honorable Justin M. Wilson
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Although the final plan is not yet available, you can be assured of robust efforts including maximizing Blue Line service, restoring railcars into the system as outlined at the March 24 Board meeting, and developing a network of free bus shuttles and supplemental bus service.

Our senior leadership would be pleased to come to a future Council meeting in May and we will work with Yon Lambert on scheduling.

Thank you for your support of WMATA and we look forward to sharing more information this Spring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. Wiedefeld". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light gray rectangular box.

Paul J. Wiedefeld
General Manager and
Chief Executive Officer