

King St-Old Town Metrorail Station Access Improvements Project
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
Updated 08/20/2020

Project Schedule and Delay	
What is the latest timeline for the opening of the completion of both Phase 1 (Bus Loop) and Phase 2 (Diagonal St improvements)?	The City continues to work closely with the contractor to ensure an accurate and achievable schedule is developed and followed. While delays have continued, we can provide an updated estimate for completion of the phase 1 bus loop. At this time, we anticipate an approximately 4 to 6 month time frame for reopening the bus loop. This accounts for construction of the bus loop, restoration of utilities, intersection signalization, and integration into the DASH, WMATA, and City traffic operations systems. Phase 2 is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2021, but subject to change.
Has the COVID-19 Pandemic had any impact to the project timeline?	Many projects have been impacted by the coronavirus. The contractor for the King Street Metro project indicated they have experienced delays, but has not yet indicated the full extent of the impact.
What will be done to ensure the new schedule is adhered to?	This project has experienced delays. Staff continues to actively manage the contractor's progress on this project and is taking all steps within our contractual rights to hold the contractor accountable for completion of this project in a productive and timely manner.
How will the delays impact the project budget?	Construction costs have changed, but still fall within the established project budget. Some cost increases related to extended inspection and construction oversight may be realized, but are anticipated to fall within the scope of the project's contingency funds.
Project Purpose and Components	
What is the purpose of the project?	The project will improve pedestrian safety, provide additional capacity for buses, provide better separation between modes, and improve aesthetics outside the station.
What are the improvements being made?	The improvements include better designed and safer pedestrian walkways, three additional bus bays, improved lighting and landscaping, and designated areas for the shuttles, taxis, bikes, carshare, and Kiss & Ride. The proposed improvements can be found on the project webpage at www.alexandriava.gov/85338
When did the planning for this project begin? How long has the project been underway?	Since 2006, the City and Metro have been studying the needs to improve safety at the King St-Old Town Metrorail station. The project included significant public outreach, and the design concept was approved in 2012 by the Planning Commission and City Council.

<p>What outreach has been done for this project?</p>	<p>The project has been underway since 2006, and there was an extensive public outreach process to identify the needs and develop the design concept. Over the past several years, the project has been going through the design engineering. The project website has been available, and continually updated during this period at www.alexandriava.gov/85338</p>
<p>Will train service be impacted?</p>	<p>No – this project is only affecting the area outside the station. A separate WMATA led project during the summer of 2019 will impact rail service for approximately three months.</p>
<p>How does this project relate to the Metro shut down in 2019?</p>	<p>WMATA is leading a separate project that will rehabilitate the platforms of all stations south of National Airport, including the King St-Old Town Metrorail station. That project is scheduled for summer of 2019, which will impact train service. The City is coordinating with WMATA on the impacts and transportation needs, identifying transportation solutions, and will do additional outreach prior to that project.</p>
<p>Will there be metered parking in the station after the project is completed?</p>	<p>No, the metered long-term parking is being removed. Since this is an urban station, long term parking is not being provided. In addition, the metered parking on the north side of Diagonal Road will be permanently removed to accommodate the taxi and shuttle areas.</p>
<p>Construction – General Impacts</p>	
<p>How long will the construction take?</p>	<p>We are anticipating construction lasting approximately two years, with completion in Fall 2020.</p>
<p>When will the construction start?</p>	<p>Starting on August 6, 2018, preliminary construction began on the installation of temporary bus shelters and signage. This preliminary construction impacted on-street parking along the north side of Diagonal Road, the south side of King Street between Diagonal Road and Daingerfield Street, and along the east side of Daingerfield Street between Diagonal Road and Dechantal Street. In addition, some of the metered parking within the station, and shuttles will be removed from the station to accommodate construction staging. On Sunday, November 18, the bus loop and entire Kiss & Ride area will be closed down, and buses will move to the temporary bus stop locations. Major construction will begin the following day on Monday, November 19.</p>

<p>What will be the construction impacts?</p>	<p>Buses will be located at interim bus bays outside the station for the approximately 18 months. During the full construction period (approximately two years), there will be no Kiss & Ride, no shuttle area, or metered parking. These users should use other stations such as Eisenhower Avenue or Braddock Road. Interim paths and wayfinding will help guide users to interim services. Taxis can be found on Diagonal Road, Union Station, or on Cameron Street near the north station entrance.</p>
<p>Construction - Buses</p>	
<p>Where are the interim bus bays located?</p>	<p>Interim bus bays have been put on both sides of Diagonal Road, King Street between Diagonal Road and Daingerfield Road (adjacent King Street Gardens), and both sides of Daingerfield Road between Diagonal Road and Dechantal Street.</p>
<p>Where do I catch the King Street Trolley?</p>	<p>The King Street Trolley headed into Old Town will pick passengers up at Bay K, located on the south side of King Street between Daingerfield Road and Diagonal Road (King Street Gardens). When the trolley returns to the King Street Metro station, it will drop passengers off at Bay L, located on Cameron Street at the north station entrance.</p>
<p>When will the buses be put back in the station?</p>	<p>The bus bay area will be under construction for about 18 months. At the end of this period, the bus stops will be moved back into the newly constructed transit center.</p>
<p>Are bus schedules being adjusted to allow for additional transfer times and connections?</p>	<p>Yes. Both DASH and WMATA have adjusted the bus schedules to build in the added time needed to accommodate connections.</p>
<p>Construction – Pedestrian Impacts</p>	
<p>What are the impacts to sidewalks?</p>	<p>Some sidewalks are being closed to accommodate construction, including on the south side of King Street adjacent the station, on the west side of Daingerfield Road adjacent the station, and parts of the north side of Diagonal Road adjacent the station. The crosswalk across King Street at Cameron Street will be closed to accommodate construction vehicles. A temporary crosswalk has been installed across King Street west of the station near Sunset Drive. Wayfinding and temporary paths will help direct pedestrians to destinations.</p>
<p>Coming from Carlyle, how do I walk to the station?</p>	<p>The pedestrian tunnel will remain open. Users must then cross Diagonal Road near Duke Street to the sidewalk on the south side, and then cross again at the mid-block crosswalk until the new sidewalk is completed.</p>

What accommodations are being made to improve pedestrian safety during construction?	Wayfinding signage will direct pedestrians to destinations. Some existing crosswalks are being restriped and improved. A rapid flash beacon was added at the crosswalk across Diagonal Rd near Duke Street. A temporary crosswalk with a Rapid Flash Beacon has been installed across King Street near the Union Station at Sunset Drive.
Construction – Bike Impacts	
Will bike parking be available during construction?	Yes, bike racks are available during construction at the north entrance, and just before the mezzanine area off of King Street.
Is the construction impacting the Capital Bikeshare stations?	No. The Capital bikeshare stations will remain at their current locations – on Diagonal Road, and in front of the Old Town Hilton Hotel on Commonwealth Avenue.
Construction – Passenger Drop Off / Pick Up	
Where can riders be dropped off or picked up?	During construction, there will be no designated Kiss & Ride area. Customers, including Lyft and Uber users, should use either the Braddock Road Metrorail station, or Eisenhower Avenue Metrorail station.
Where will Metro Access Van riders be dropped off or picked up?	The Metro Access van location is Bay L located on Cameron Street adjacent the North entrance. There is an elevator at this station entrance.
Where can I find a taxi?	Taxi parking can be found on Diagonal Road next to the Embassy Suites, at Union Station, or at a new temporary taxi area on Cameron Street near the north station entrance.
Construction – Metered Parking	
Where will I be able to park during the day since some parking is being removed?	The on-street parking on the north side of Diagonal Road, and on portions of Daingerfield Road, and portions of King Street will be removed to accommodate temporary bus bays and bus layovers. In addition, the metered parking within the station will be closed. Metered parking is available on other nearby streets, and paid parking is also available at garages nearby. Locations for alternative parking lots and garages can be found at: www.alexandriava.gov/parking