



March 16, 2021

Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
<mailto:boardofdirectors@wmata.com>

Sierra Club Montgomery County Opposes Closing Grosvenor/Strathmore Metro Station (FY2022 WMATA Budget)

Dear WMATA Board of Directors:

As part of a cost saving measure, Metro is proposing to close Grosvenor/Strathmore Metro Station in 2022. Sierra Club, Montgomery County Group, asks the WMATA Board to keep the Grosvenor/Strathmore Metro Station open.

While it is meant to be a temporary measure, we think it would set a dangerous precedent to close this station even temporarily. The Preliminary Plan for “Strathmore Square” was approved in October 2020 by the Montgomery County Planning Board. It will be a lively transit-oriented development adjacent the WMATA Grosvenor property and Strathmore Music Hall and anticipates over 2200 residential units (15% would be moderately-priced-dwelling-units). The overall project is just now launching and, with the building permit process underway, closing the Metro station at this point could harm the future of this important TOD project.

Sierra Club’s number one priority is fighting climate change. By supporting more housing density in walkable, transit-served, mixed use, mixed income, attractive neighborhoods, we can reduce automobile use. This Metro-served location is exactly where higher density should go. And we endorse the equity component of building more affordable housing near transit. Green space, parks and plazas are part of the plan, which overall offers significant convenient and affordable non-automobile options to get around – transit, walking, biking.

Many people are not using Metro at this time, but with the COVID vaccine becoming more readily available, it seems premature to close this Metro station. We hope you will reconsider the proposal to close the Grosvenor/Strathmore station.

Sincerely,

Shruti Bhatnagar, Chair
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