

January 8, 2013, Civic Federation Meeting Highlights

Present were delegates Bob Atkins and Suzanne Sundburg and BCA member David Hughes, who has volunteered as a Civic Federation alternate delegate and is awaiting the Executive Board's confirmation.

Tom Harrington of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)'s Director of the Office of Long Range Planning presented Metro's Momentum Strategic Plan, which can be reviewed at <http://www.wmata.com/momentum/>. Metro has developed a strategic plan to meet the following goals: Build and maintain a premier safety culture and system, meet or exceed customer expectations by consistently delivering quality service, improve regional mobility and connect communities, and ensure financial stability and invest in our people and assets.

After the presentation, Harrington answered delegate questions. In response to a query asking when gridlock in the Rosslyn tunnel would occur (as a result of the added Silver line trains), he responded that if funding is committed now to ensure that all trains have 8 cars, it would "buy time" and forestall the conflict until 2030 or 2040. Ultimately, the only permanent solution would be to add another crossing, which would permit more trains run.

As far as funding is concerned, Harrington posited that there needs to be a 50-50% match of local-federal government money for a good funding mechanism, with 1/3 of total costs coming from local governments, 1/3 coming from the federal government, and 1/3 coming from fares.

In answer to the question about when Metro would build a west entrance to the Ballston Metro stop, Harrington replied that he had worked on that plan years ago and that it would be funded in conjunction with proposed redevelopment. He said that Arlington County had originally said it wouldn't allow dense redevelopment west of Glebe Road but had now done so, thus creating the demand/need for a west entrance. In his words, getting a west entrance built is "in Arlington's hands."

Old business was considered following the Metro presentation. In Joe Pelton's absence (who originally presented the resolution), Larry Finch put the pending Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) resolution before delegates for a vote. The text of the resolution can be found at <http://www.civfed.org/res-LEAP%20Energy%20Efficiency%20Initiative%202013.pdf>. LEAP sponsors Virginia's Energy Star Home Performance Program. It provides home energy reviews/assessments, coordinates federal rebates and special loans, and hooks homeowners up with prequalified contractors to make their homes more energy efficient. Delegates passed the resolution 37 to 1. For more information about LEAP, visit <http://leap-va.org/process>.