

# Clarendon Metro Plaza Improvements

## Project Overview

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Current Status: The project team has completed three community meetings, a County Manager and Board members briefing and has formed a working group that includes citizens, businesses owners, the Clarendon Alliance, Kimley Horn and staff from multiple departments and disciplines. This group has continually refined the conceptual design. The design is at 95% engineering and the project team is fine tuning the specifications for pavers, seating, bike parking, lighting, newspaper gang boxes and other site amenities.

Design: Design is being completed using the Arlington's On-Call Planning and Engineering Task Order Contract with Kimley Horn.

Construction: Proposed through Arlington County On-call Construction services

Ownership: Remain as County owned property up to the escalator and elevator landing areas as per WMATA easements.

Maintenance: Continue Arlington County maintenance by Parks and Recreation Staff and Smartscape Maintenance Team.  
 A maintenance plan will be prepared as part of the project.

<u>Funding:</u>	(DC-30-0038) WMATA +	
	(DC-90-X071) RSTP	\$ 222,213
	Local Grant Match (held by WMATA)	\$ 55,554
	Arlington County Business Improvement Bonds (Held by WMATA)	<u>\$ 23,704</u>
	Total WMATA Related Funding	\$ 301,471
	Arlington Metro Station Bicycle Parking Transportation Enhancement Grant	\$ 100,000

Project Vision:  
 Create an active urban, multi-use distinctive plaza to complement surrounding land uses with a focus on Metrorail access points. Integrate seating, bike parking, wayfinding and artwork as part of an adaptable enjoyable urban experience that will accommodate farmers' markets, music events, vendors and other community activities.

Project Description:  
 This project will create an updated urban plaza to accommodate higher volumes of pedestrians and associated plaza activities. The project area includes the existing plaza space between Wilson Blvd and Clarendon Blvd from N. Highland Street to the Metrorail elevators. The area west of the elevators is not included in the project. The first phase of construction will include pedestrian paving, curb extensions on Clarendon Blvd, seating, and lighting. The second construction phase includes covered bike parking, gang newspaper boxes and wayfinding. Additional phasing of construction may be needed to match available project funds.





### Programming Needs:

- Accommodate commuters
- Clarendon festivals
- Farmers' markets
- Bike parking
- Holiday / event crowds around Metro access points
- Vendors
- Seating areas
- Paper boxes
- Semi-active night time use

### Site Analysis:

- Earlier HOK concept work did not fit the character of Clarendon and did not improve the space for the program needs.
- Coordinate with existing and future adjacent development
- Solar analysis plan for summer and winter seating
- Current site elements
  - Streetlights "old globe" style does not match the Carlyle style used County-wide
  - Left turn lane from EB Clarendon could be removed adding plaza space and shortening pedestrian crossing distances
  - Current bike parking, not adequate, covered parking desirable and funding available as a separate source
  - Existing perimeter trees are healthy and if possible could be integrated into new design
  - The large center spruce tree will be difficult to incorporate into a more active urban plaza and should be removed
  - The center bermed grass panel does not work well for programming an active urban plaza
  - Bus transit activity is mostly serviced by the right curb lines on Wilson and Clarendon blvd. not curbside on the plaza.

### Current Design Presented for Comments at 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Meeting

- Created from Concept 1 and 3 based on 2nd Community Meeting comments.
- Additional shade trees / landscaping added at east end of plaza
- Plaza paving to be constructed from a bold pattern of brick and concrete pavers.
- Curved seating walls are stock items available for potential damage replacement.
- Movable heavy outdoor furniture proposed.
- Paving design incorporates pieces of terrazzo saved from the CVS Construction.
- Covered bike parking canopies to complement the Metro escalator canopy.
- Uplighting is proposed for existing and new trees. New perimeter Carlyle Lights to be installed with an upgrade of all streetlights surrounding the plaza.

### Next Steps

- Finalize Funding Agreements between WMATA and Arlington County.
- Report back to the community working group after the CM, CB members and TC and P&R Commission updates to review 95% engineering drawings.
- Work with the Communications Office on a project update for the media.
- Submit 95% construction drawings to WMATA and AC Staff.
- Complete plans by January 2009 and submit to WAMATA and A.C. for signatures.
- Receive cost proposals from annual county contracts for construction.
- Begin phased construction by Spring 2009.