

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2004  
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER <sup>S</sup>  
SUBJECT: DUKE STREET CONCOURSE PROGRESS REPORT

This memorandum provides a brief update on the status of the construction of the Duke Street concourse and the implementation of concourse-related mitigation measures.

Concourse Construction

The Duke Street Concourse is proceeding on schedule as of this date. The placing of the ten pre-cast sections for Phase I was completed on February 4. This activity was followed by waterproofing and backfilling. The sheet piling was then removed, and the street paved. The two eastbound traffic lanes were shifted back to the south on the evening of Friday, February 13, moving the work area to the center of Duke Street. This completed Phase I and the second project milestone which was to reach this stage by February 17. Excavation is now proceeding on the Phase II work area in the center of Duke Street. The contractor has completed the relocation of the fence along the WMATA right of way. This will facilitate the relocation of the WMATA electrical duct bank.

WMATA anticipates award of the contract for the concourse-related work north of Duke Street on February 25. This is a design build contract. The design phase of this work has started, and construction is expected to begin by April 1. The WMATA contract requires this concourse-related construction to be concluded no later than June 15.

Mitigation Measures: Shuttle Ridership

Since the inauguration of shuttle service between the PTO campus and the King Street Metro Station on December 8, 2003, ridership has been steadily increasing. During the last week of December, an average of 97 passengers were being served on a daily basis. At the end of January, ridership had increased to 454 passengers per day. By mid-February, ridership reached an average of 757 passengers per day. To date, the largest number of passengers served during a single day was 956, which occurred on February 12.

Traffic Volumes on Surrounding Roadways

To assess the effect of the PTO relocation on traffic volumes on surrounding streets, a cordon of traffic monitoring locations was established at points of access to and egress from the eastern end

of Eisenhower Valley. In combination, traffic counts taken around this cordon measure the total number of vehicles entering and leaving the cordoned area. The area is roughly bounded by Duke, Holland, Eisenhower and Telegraph. Prior to the beginning of the PTO relocation in early December, an average of 51,200 vehicles entered and left this area on a daily basis. In early February, counts showed the total cordon volume had dropped to average of 48,000 vehicles per day, a decline of approximately 3,000 vehicles per day or 6 per cent. In considering this decline in traffic volume, it should be noted that some decline in late fall to winter traffic is regularly experienced in this part of the city due, in large part, to a seasonal variation in traffic. In the opinion of staff, these counts should be seen as indicating “no net increase” in traffic demand to date in the cordoned area.

Staff continues to monitor all elements of this concourse project and will keep the Council informed of all developments. Attached is a matrix which gives a monthly status of the mitigation measures, construction milestones, PTO occupancy and transit patterns, and traffic levels in the surrounding area (Attachment 1). This matrix will be updated each month until the completion of this project.

Also attached are some recent photos illustrating the completion of the tunnel sections for Phase I and the new traffic pattern for Phase II (Attachment 2).

Attachments: 1. Duke Street Pedestrian Concourse Matrix  
2. Phase I & II photographs

cc: Richard J. Baier, Director, T&ES  
Tom Culpepper, Deputy Director, T&ES  
Emily A. Baker, City Engineer  
Arthur Dahlberg, Director, Code Enforcement

## DUKE STREET PEDESTRIAN CONCOURSE MATRIX

	DEC 2003	JAN 2004	FEB 2004	MARCH 2004	APRIL 2004	MAY 2004	JUNE 2004
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b>							
Average number of employees using the Transit Shuttle per day	97	454	757*				
Notation of any fines and missed interim milestones	Milestone 1 Achieved 11/20/03	N/A	Milestone 2 Achieved 2/17/04				
<b>PTO Campus Update:</b>							
Number of employees occupying the Campus at month's end	592	1596	2103				
Average number of employees commuting from Crystal City by PTO Shuttle per day	N/A	224	285				
Average number of employees parking within a PTO garage per day	386	806	956				
<b>Traffic Volume on Surrounding Streets:</b>							
Average daily number of vehicles entering and leaving East Eisenhower Valley	51,200	N/A**	48,000				

\* Through 02/13/04

\*\*Traffic counts were not collected in January due to weather related constraints



OVERHEAD VIEWS OF PHASE 1 TUNNEL SECTIONS BEING WATERPROOFED



DUKE ST. LOOKING WESTBOUND FROM DULANY ST. MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC FOR PHASE 2



OVERHEAD VIEWS OF PHASES 2 TRAFFIC