

# METRO RAIL ON TRACK

Produced by the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

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Crews with W.M. Schlosser have finished installing glass panels that will comprise the windscreen at Dulles Airport Station that was designed to mimic the facade Dulles International Airport. (Photo courtesy of Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project)

## Where to Park? Learn about Fairfax County's Parking Garages Along Phase 2 of the Silver Line Metro

Fairfax County is prepared to welcome Silver Line Phase 2 customers to the Herndon and Innovation Center Stations on the day revenue service starts.

Fairfax County is responsible for two parking facilities: one serving the Herndon Metro Station and one serving the Innovation Center Metro Station. Collectively, the two new garages provide approximately 4,100 parking spaces. Construction of both garages is complete. While daily parking rates have yet to be set, both garages are equipped to use WMATA's PARC system.

The Herndon Station Metro Garage is situated on 5.3 acres and consists of 7 tiers of parking to accommodate 2,006 parking spaces. Construction began in October 2016 and was completed in April 2019. The project incorporated the addition of a vehicular and pedestrian steel truss bridge to connect the new garage with the existing Herndon-Monroe garage facility to the west.

Key features of the facility include enhanced stormwater management, energy efficient LED lighting fixtures, and a secure bicycle storage area with two bike repair stations for a total capacity of 130 bikes. The garage also provides direct vehicular egress to the

Dulles Toll Road to reduce traffic impact on local roads. The new garage is currently open to the public at no cost until beginning of revenue operations.

The Innovation Center Station Garage is situated on 4.45 acres with 8 tiers of parking to accommodate approximately 2,100 spaces. Construction of the facility began in April 2018 and was completed in June 2020. The project includes a Kiss and Ride, Bus Dropoff area, and a pocket park that incorporates informational signage and benches for use by commuters.

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enhanced stormwater management bioretention ponds, energy efficient LED lighting fixtures, rooftop planters and a secure bicycle storage area with two bike repair stations for a total capacity for 170 bikes. In addition to the features noted above, the garage incorporates a snow melter system intended for use during the winter months to ensure the upper deck remains open and operational to customers. The facility will remain closed to the public until start of revenue services of Silver Line Phase 2.



Paving and striping along Old Meadow Road were complete just before Thanksgiving as crews are finishing up small tasks related to the realignment of the road with Capital One Tower Drive. (Photo Courtesy of W.M. Schlosser)

# Meet the Staff: Mercedes Kamencik, Construction Oversight

Communication. Teamwork. Positive feedback. Those words describe Mercedes Kamencik. Between her work ethic and these guiding principles, Mercedes has achieved success working first on Phase 1 and now on Phase 2 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, best known as the Silver Line Metrorail extension being built by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

Officially, her role is Construction Specialist working for Jacobs Engineering and contracted to the Silver Line project. Kamencik certainly has her hands full as the project owner's representative in the field, focusing on the Spring Hill Station during Phase 1 and now completing the Dulles Airport Station on Phase 2. The responsibility of communicating and coordinating with the multiple contractors, sub-contractors, government agencies and jurisdictions onsite falls to her.

"While working with multiple teams on-site presents potential challenges, I've found that by establishing open lines of communication early in the process, it creates a smooth workflow and avoids any disturbances to the construction being performed," said Kamencik, who heads construction oversight on the Silver Line.

She keeps the different teams working together at a steady pace, resolving problems as a united front, and building strong internal communications. She emphasizes the owner-contractor common goal

of delivering a safe, dependable and durable rail extension to be turned over to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

"The previous work experience Mercedes brought with her to the project team has been a great benefit for all of us," said John Kearney, Construction Manager on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. "Due to her vast experience on Phase 1, Mercedes was chosen to oversee the most unique station on Phase Two, Dulles Airport Station, which required a constant, high level of oversight to help all involved to maintain the appearance of the Airport and access for the patrons during rail construction"

Starting her educational journey at Milwaukee School of Engineering, Mercedes soon realized her heart was still set on home in Maryland. Returning to finish her associates' degree at Montgomery College, she went on to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore where she earned a bachelor's degree in construction management. Kamencik has been employed full time since she was 20 and worked her way through college, managing to balance career and educational goals with success.

No stranger to hard work, she dedicates herself to achieving her professional goals with incredible passion and efficacy. Now after 17 years in the industry, it is no surprise to learn that Mercedes is one of the youngest people on the Silver Line job.

She brings with her a variety of knowledge and experience from her previous role as an assistant project manager overseeing commercial real estate sites such as office buildings.

She's definitely won the respect of those with whom she interacts including John Kearney who has served as her supervisor on Phase 1 and now on Phase 2 of the Silver Line. She's also a walking expert on the Dulles Airport Station, which sits on top of an aerial guideway across the parking bowl from the Airport terminal. She readily provides answers



Mercedes is the project's "walking expert" on Dulles Airport Station. (Photo courtesy of DCMP)

to complex questions not only for construction crews but also visitors on the project.

Her many experiences not only have benefited her professional growth, but have helped her team's interns along the way. As a mentor, she approaches her role with a balance of gravity and amicability, imparting important lessons on and building positive experiences for her young teammates.

"When we have interns here in the field, I always stress that while everyone may be working on different teams – owner, contractor or whoever – for the project, we still have a common goal to get the project done safely, efficiently and on time," she said.

Her associates refer to her as an exemplary role model, especially for young women in the construction and engineering industry, and they praise her teamwork and open communication strategies as the keys to her success.

By far, Kamencik says the multi-billion-dollar Silver Line is her favorite construction project. She enjoys the challenges and rewards of working on one of the largest transportation projects in the country. She says she's been awed by how many agencies, jurisdictions and stakeholders work with and support each other to achieve a common goal: connecting Dulles Airport and Loudoun County to the region via the Silver Line.



Mercedes Kamencik, Construction Oversight. (Photo courtesy of

## Interested in news and updates about Phase 2 of the Silver Line?

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