Silver Line Phase 2 Construction Ramps Up

Steady progress continues on Phase 2 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project with the design nearly complete and ample elements to capture curious eyes.

As construction continues to ramp up through 2016, commuters will see work along the entire 11.4-mile stretch of Phase 2, which extends from the existing Wiehle-Reston East Station westward to Dulles International Airport and beyond to Ashburn in Loudoun County.

“This is the biggest year so far for construction all along the Phase 2 alignment from Reston west to Ashburn,” said Charles Stark, the executive director for the project. “There is a lot of work to be done.”

Currently, the project’s design is 99.3 percent complete and construction is around 17 percent complete.

Considerable work has been done at Dulles Airport and at the Innovation Center Station site, which is the first station to the east of the airport. Traversing the Dulles Airport property requires the use of an aerial guideway consisting of drilled shafts, columns, caps, girders, decks and other engineering elements. The shafts, columns and caps are mostly complete with about 200 girders set along the guideway.

In addition to the aerial guideway, considerable work has been done at the Dulles Airport Station site adjacent to Garage 1. The pedestrian tunnel running from Garage 1 to the main terminal has been closed to permit construction of the station. Once work has finished, the tunnel will reopen to provide access for those parking in the garage as well as those arriving or departing via Metro.

The future Innovation Center Station site has experienced the most progress, taking on the look of the Phase 1 Stations while enabling and excavation work continues at most of the other five stations comprising Phase 2. Ashburn remains an exception but excavation work is expected to begin there later this year.

Crews continue to supplement their restricted daytime schedules with night work along the alignment.

The Journey Continues at Dulles Airport Station

Pictured left is the latest rendering of the highly anticipated Dulles Airport station. Dulles will be the only station to have different design aspects apart from the rest of the metrorail. The station intends to resemble the terminal's sleek and iconic design. Passengers will be able to access the terminal through a pre-existing tunnel originating at Parking Garage 1. The tunnel is closed during construction, but when reopened it will provide ease of access with multiple moving walkways.

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What's Happening at Horsepen Lake?

Pictured Right, the Capital Rail Constructors girder crew sets a precast concrete girder over Horsepen Lake at Dulles International Airport. This aerial guideway will carry metrorail cars to and from the new rail yard and maintenance facility that's being constructed as part of Phase 2 of the Silver Line. At 150 feet long, the four girders that will span Horsepen Lake are the longest and heaviest girders in the aerial guideway.

Photo by: Jennifer Alcott, Capital Rail Constructors

Highlights

On June 3, reporters from Loudoun Now toured the construction site of Innovation Center Station.

On June 4, employees from the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project answered questions about Phase 2 and handed out goodies to the public at the 36th Annual Herndon Festival.

On May 23, members from the American Society of Civil Engineers took a closer look at Dulles Airport Station and the construction of the aerial guideway.

Did You Know?

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project is currently one of the largest megaprojects in the United States.

Over 50,000 cubic yards of concrete will be used in constructing the aerial guideway that will carry trains through Dulles International Airport, to the rail yard, and out to the Dulles Greenway.

Approximately 4,200 pieces of precast concrete will be fabricated and erected to form the six Silver Line Phase 2 stations.

Want to know more or set up a briefing? Please visit www.dullesmetro.com, follow us on Twitter @DullesMetrorail, or call (703) 572-0506. To set up a briefing for your HOA, civic group or business, email outreach@dullesmetro.com. To report Construction concerns, please call our hotline: 1-844-385-7245.