



ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

**Statement by Montgomery County Chief Administrative Officer Tim Firestine
On Moving Ahead with Final Fix to Silver Spring Transit Center
May 8, 2014**

County Executive Ike Leggett has directed County contractors to move ahead on remediation work at the Silver Spring Transit Center to address shear and torsion issues and ensure that the Center will not only be safe but also meet its projected 50-year life span – consistent with our Memorandum of Understanding with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

The County Executive has directed KCE, the County’s contract engineering team, to meet on Monday with Parsons Brinckerhoff, the project’s engineer of record, to finalize the remediation plan consistent with concerns raised in the Augustine report. The County Executive has given the go-ahead to bring equipment on site to begin preparation for the remediation work.

WMATA , the “customer” for whom the facility is being built, is in agreement with the County Executive to undertake the remediation to address concerns raised about the possible effects of shear and torsion on the structure.

The County Executive has made it clear that he would not open the Transit Center until it was safe to do so. The County will deliver a facility to Metro that is safe and will meet its projected 50-year life. The County will ensure that any additional costs incurred because of faulty construction, design, or inspection by private contractors will be the responsibility of those contractors, not the County taxpayer.

In 2012 – when the facility was 95 percent complete, the County Executive rejected a proposal to simply “cover over” cracks in the concrete with a thin layer of poured concrete and “move on.” That would have been wrong .

Instead, the County Executive hired KCE to conduct an in-depth review of the project. As a result of that review, KCE found significant flaws beyond the cracks in the concrete. KCE determined that these flaws would affect the maintenance and durability of the facility and would require repairs to address shear and torsion issues.

Because concerns remained about costs and scheduling, during the winter “weather window” when the overlay could not be done due to low temperatures, the County Executive asked former Lockheed Martin CEO Norman Augustine to undertake an independent review of the project. Mr. Augustine’s report supported KCE’s proposed remediation plan and introduced, for the first time, concern that the facility could experience safety issues.

The County is grateful to Mr. Augustine for his work and those associates whose expertise he solicited. Not only did they deliver a report at no cost to the taxpayers, but this report has also proved pivotal in helping to advance a consensus for remediation with WMATA and Parsons Brinckerhoff.

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