



MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Martin O'Malley, Governor • Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
John D. Porcari, Secretary • Paul J. Wiedefeld, Administrator

May 8, 2009

Darian Unger
Silver Spring Advisory Board
8435 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring MD 20910

Dear Community Leader:

You are cordially invited to a Community Meeting being held by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) on the Silver Spring section of the Purple Line Project. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at the Oak View Elementary School located at 400 East Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20901. At 7:00 pm project maps will be on display for your review. The meeting will then be held from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm.

Through our outreach efforts we have heard from some Silver Spring residents that they oppose a surface alignment along Wayne Avenue because of concerns about potential adverse effects to the neighborhood. Councilmember Valerie Ervin requested on behalf of the Seven Oaks and Park Hills communities that an additional study be completed on the longer tunnel alternative to Mansfield Road. The request specified that before selecting the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), the MTA bring the evaluation of a tunnel option with a portal on Wayne Avenue from the Silver Spring Transit Center to Mansfield Road to the same level of detail as has been already completed for the surface option between these points. While the Montgomery County Council and County Executive Isiah Leggett have endorsed the Purple Line and support the Medium Investment LRT alternative, they wanted to see both options given the same considerations.

I would like to note that while the Seven Oaks and Park Hills communities have requested this additional study, a longer tunnel would affect the overall Silver Spring Community. The impacts would include the permanent elimination of some stations in both Downtown Silver Spring and East Silver Spring, construction and traffic impacts. Due to these community impacts we encourage representatives from communities living in the areas from the Silver Spring Transit Center to Sligo Creek Parkway to attend this meeting.

The Purple Line Project team has completed further study of this tunnel option and will present and review the findings at this meeting. We also will be glad to answer additional questions that are raised. The analysis that was completed has been posted on the Purple Line Project website in the "Additional Studies" section at

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www.purplelinemd.com/additional-studies. We encourage you to review our analysis prior to this meeting. If you do not have access to the project website, please contact me at 410-767-3694 and I will send you a hard copy of the report.

Your input is very important to us and I hope that you will be able to attend this meeting. Thank you for your interest and continued involvement in this process. Please contact me at 410-767-3694 or at mmadden@mtamaryland.com, if you have any questions regarding the Purple Line or this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Madden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael D. Madden
Project Manager
Office of Planning

cc: Valerie Ervin, Councilmember – District 5, Montgomery County Council
Tom Autrey, Transportation Planner, Montgomery County M-NCPPC
Gary Erenrich, Special Assistant to the Director, Montgomery County DPW&T
Katherine Holt, Transportation Planner, Montgomery County M-NCPPC
Glenn Orlin, Deputy Council Staff Director, Montgomery County Council
Ben Stutz, Legislative Aide, Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin