



# Montgomery County Council

*From the Offices of Councilmembers*

*George Leventhal, Tom Perez and Marilyn Praisner*

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **PEREZ, PRAISNER AND LEVENTHAL APPLAUD FORMATION OF NEW PURPLE LINE COALITION**

### ***Staff Study Recommends Inner Purple Line***

Montgomery County Councilmembers George Leventhal (D-At-Large), Tom Perez (D-District Five) and Marilyn Praisner (D-District Four) today heartily endorsed the goals of the new Coalition to Build the Inner Purple Line, a broad-based group encompassing business, labor, environmentalists, civic and community organizations and the University of Maryland. The three councilmembers have been instrumental in forming the coalition, along with members of the Prince George's County Council and other elected officials and community leaders.

The councilmembers also noted that a study by the professional staff of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) recommends approval of the Inner Purple Line rather than an alternative proposal recently offered by Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan. The M-NCPPC staff report will be acted upon by the Montgomery County Planning Board on January 31, and the Planning Board's recommendation will come before the County Council on February 4. The U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has established a deadline of February 28 for projects to be submitted for consideration in the upcoming Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act.

"I have never seen such a wide coalition of interest come together around a transportation issue before," said Perez. "It is clear to me that community sentiment favors the Inner Purple Line."

"The facts are overwhelmingly compelling," said Leventhal. "As the Park and Planning staff report finds, the Inner Purple Line is the most cost-effective and least environmentally damaging option and it can be completed in the shortest time frame."

"Time is of the essence," said Praisner. "In order to get this project included in the federal authorization bill, we must come together now in support of the Inner Purple Line."

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