

Bi-County Transit Way "The Purple Line"

On November 15, 2004, we attended the Maryland Transit Administration's Silver Spring Public Meeting on a proposed **Bi-County Transit Project, aka the "Purple Line."**

The State of Maryland is proposing a rapid transit connection between Bethesda in Montgomery County and New Carrollton in Prince George's County. As proposed, **the line will run THROUGH downtown Silver Spring, with WAYNE AVENUE and SLIGO AVENUE**, as the primary alternative routes.

NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE regarding (1) the ultimate route, (2) whether it is above or below ground, or (3) what type of transit to be developed. At this point the project is being studied, and the community's input is being solicited. **NO MAJOR DECISIONS WILL BE MADE UNTIL SPRING 2007.**

According to the MTA, the alternatives to be studied in detail include the following:

- **No-Build:** *No major **NEW** transit improvements would be made. Existing transit modes would be supported.*
- **Transportation Management System:** *Would expand existing bus routes and improve frequencies. Would improve route coordination and marketing of transit. Would implement low cost technological aids such as smart card fare systems and priority treatment for transit.*
- **Bus Rapid Transit and/or Light Rail Transit.** *Major new investments would operate in shared, dedicated or exclusive right-of ways. Would operate at grade, elevated or in tunnels.*



Maryland Transit Administration Light Rail.



The Bi-County Transitway project planning and environmental review process is expected to take three and a half years: **Fall 2003:** Notice of Intent and Scoping process (12 months); **Fall 2004 to Spring 2006:** Definition of Alternatives Report, Analysis of Alternatives retained, production of Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Statement and Selection of preferred alternative (18 months); **Spring 2007:** Decision on a preferred alternative and preferred mode of transportation as well as the Record of Decision (ROD) (12 months)

We strongly encourage you to visit the MTA's website -- www.bi-countytransitway.com - and learn as much as you can about this important proposal.

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