



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

February 26, 2008

Silver Spring Advocates
c/o Jon Elkind
415 Ellsworth Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Silver Spring Advocates,

Thank you for your letter of February 15 and your testimony and questions at the Council's Town Hall Meeting on January 30. Your enthusiasm that the right Purple Line be built soon is a vision shared by this Council.

On February 6, 2007, the Council transmitted its transportation priorities to the State for unfunded State transportation projects and planning studies. The letter stated that "...the two major transitways, the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) from Shady Grove to Clarksburg, and the Purple Line from Bethesda to Langley Park..., receive our highest priority." Since that time we are pleased to report that Governor O'Malley and Secretary Porcari have allocated 80 and 100 million dollars respectively to the CCT and Purple Line for continued planning and preliminary engineering.

If the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) of the Purple Line identifies light rail transit (LRT) at-grade on Wayne Avenue as the option which provides significant ridership, improves travel times over existing and future conditions, and contains costs, which will improve the State's application for federal funds, then we believe that the MTA needs to consult with the appropriate County agencies to develop a Purple Line package for Silver Spring, specifically Wayne Avenue. The County will work with the MTA to ensure that this proposed route retains the residential character of Wayne Avenue and its adjacent neighborhoods; improves the overall mobility of County residents; and delivers the economic and environmental benefits associated with other light rail projects throughout the Country.

Specifically we agree that the MTA and the appropriate County agencies work to address effectively the issues raised in your letter, including:

- Retain as much on-street parking as possible.
- Protect against cut-through traffic into the adjacent neighborhoods.
- Improve the neighborhoods' overall traffic circulation.
- Create highly visible and safe routes for pedestrians.
- Enhance the community through improvements to the streetscape, including high-quality landscaping, street trees, and street lights and other beautification projects.
- Protect Sligo Creek, including stormwater controls and habitat protection.
- Ensure that the Green Trail is completed coincident with the Purple Line.

STELLA B. WERNER OFFICE BUILDING • 100 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
240/777-7960 OR 240/777-7900 • TTY 240/777-7914 • FAX 240/777-7989

WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMD.GOV/COUNCIL

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Light rail transit has a proven track record for improving the quality of life in communities across the United States. We believe that the Purple Line can be constructed in a manner that improves the environment, decreases commute times, keeps vehicular traffic from increasing, enhances property values, maximizes access to jobs, supports the continued revitalization of Silver Spring, and provides reliable, efficient east-west public transportation.

We appreciate the time and effort that you and your fellow residents who live in the communities adjacent to Wayne Avenue have given this subject. We are forwarding your letter and our response to the MTA so they are aware of these important issues. We look forward to continuing to listen to the community and working with you and the MTA to build the Purple Line in a manner that improves the lives of Montgomery County's residents.

Sincerely,



Valerie Ervin
Councilmember



Mike Knapp
Council President



Phil Andrews
Council Vice-President



Nancy Floreen
Councilmember



George Leventhal
Councilmember



Roger Berliner
Councilmember



Marc Elrich
Councilmember



Duchy Trachtenberg,
Councilmember

- c: Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Representative Albert Wynn, Congressman, Maryland District 4
Representative Chris Van Hollen, Congressman, Maryland District 8
Brian Feldman, Chair, Montgomery County House Delegation
Rona Kramer, Chair, Montgomery County Senate Delegation
Senator Jaime Raskin, District 20
Delegate Sheila Hixson, District 20
Delegate Tom Hucker, District 20
Delegate Heather Mizeur, District 20
John Porcari, Transportation Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
Paul J. Wiedefeld, MTA Administrator, Maryland Department of Transportation
Mike Madden, Purple Line Project Manager, Maryland Transit Administration
Tom Autrey, Master Planner, Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning
Tom Street, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Gary Stith, Director, Silver Spring Regional Service Center
Debbie Spielberg, Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
Darian Unger, Chair Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
Alan Bowser, Co-Chair Neighborhoods Committee, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
Anita Morrison, Co-Chair Neighborhoods Committee, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
Barbara Henry, Chair, Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Board