

-----Original Message-----

From: "Ike Leggett" <Ike.Leggett@montgomerycountymd.gov>
To: "Mark Gabriele"
Date: July 29, 2009 06:07:46 PM EDT
Subject: RE: Purple Line - Downtown / East Silver Spring Tunnel -
comments
on MTA analysis

Dear Mr. Gabriele:

Thank you for your recent email expressing the concerns of the Seven Oaks/ Evanswood Citizens' Association over the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) analysis of the Wayne Avenue tunnel for the medium investment light rail Purple Line. I appreciate the thorough analysis and your critique of the MTA report.

In my January 22, 2009, memorandum to County Council President Andrews, I did support eliminating the Dale Drive station for many of the reasons you referenced in your letter. The February 2, 2009, joint County Council and County Executive letter to Secretary Porcari also recommended deleting the Dale Drive station from the locally preferred alternative, but went further to request that the design facilitate a future Dale Drive station.

The MTA may have interpreted this statement to include the property acquisition to widen Wayne Avenue to accommodate a future station. I believe that MTA identified the potential property impacts required for a future station in their study, but this does not necessarily mean that property would be acquired or Wayne Avenue widened at Dale Drive to accommodate the future station. I will work with MTA and your Association during the preliminary engineering phase to fully examine the MTA plans to minimize the Wayne Avenue widening to facilitate a potential future Dale Drive station.

I encourage your continued support for the Purple Line and I am committed to working with you and the MTA to address community design issues to build the best Purple Line. Thank you again for expressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Gabriele
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 9:17 PM
To: Ike Leggett
Cc: Montgomery County Council; Elrich's Office, Councilmember;
Berliner's Office, Councilmember; Ervin's Office, Councilmember;
Andrews' Office, Councilmember; Floreen's Office, Councilmember; Knapp's
Office, Councilmember; Leventhal's Office, Councilmember; Trachtenberg's
Office, Councilmember; Navarro's Office, Councilmember
Subject: Purple Line - Downtown / East Silver Spring Tunnel - comments
on MTA analysis

Dear Ike, (and Councilmembers):

Attached, you will find the comments and analysis of the Seven Oaks / Evanswood Citizens' Association (SOECA) on the study conducted by MTA at the request of the Montgomery County Council on a tunneled

alignment for the Purple Line transitway through Downtown Silver Spring.

As you may recall, SOECA, of which I am president, has been an active participant, working with MTA planners throughout the lengthy design and study process for the Purple Line. The attached document illustrates the attention we have paid to every detail of MTA's statements and their analysis. We find ourselves profoundly dissatisfied - not only with the result of the study, but primarily with the glaring deficiencies in how the study was conducted.

When we spoke about this topic last summer, you assured me that there would be a careful and comprehensive study of the Purple Line routing - a study made in good faith, without a predetermined answer. Sadly, this study does not live up to that promise. I implore you to read and consider the attached document and then to ask Governor O'Malley to include, as an additional option, a tunneled alignment for the Purple Line through Downtown and East Silver Spring as part of the Purple Line Locally Preferred Alternative.

Respectfully,

Mark Gabriele, Ph.D.
President, Seven Oaks / Evanswood Citizens' Association