
From: Elrich's Office, Councilmember

Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 4:36 PM

To: secretary@mdot.state.md.us

Cc: Roshdieh, Al; Berliner's Office, Councilmember; Hucker's Office, Councilmember; Kirkland, Bonnie; Tibbitts, Dale; Spielberg, Debbie

Subject: Community Purple Line meeting

Dear Secretary Rahn:

My staff attended the recent public meeting at the SS Civic Center regarding the Purple Line. During that meeting numerous questions were asked, but complete answers were not available. I am aware that Senator Jamie Raskin has contacted you about two of the questions. Below are many more of the questions raised that need responses. I also heard about the disrespectful manner Mike Madden treated a resident who was upset ("can someone please give her a cookie?"). The residents deserve respect and answers, and I know you agree.

Below are the questions, but first I wanted to convey that one of the greatest concerns expressed was about the widening of Wayne Avenue at Dale Drive. It was stated that it is necessary to add left turn lanes in both directions, which will make the intersection quite wide. I am aware that some alternatives have been reviewed; I'd like to offer another alternative to review: rather than additional lanes, is there a signal solution similar to the one for the traffic on Columbia Blvd. (continuation of Dale Drive) at the Georgia Avenue intersection in Silver Spring? There may also be other solutions to consider, and I urge your staff to continue reviewing possible alternatives to adding two additional lanes at the intersection of Dale Drive and Wayne Avenue.

I look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your attention to this.

Sincerely,
Marc

Marc Erich
Montgomery County Councilmember (At-large)

Many (but not all) of the questions that were raised at the meeting:

Where will the slides that were presented be posted?

What is the current width of Dale Drive at Wayne Avenue? What will be the width after the construction? Someone (from MTA?) said it would be five 11-foot lanes plus a 15-foot platform plus 13-foot of something else. And it was guessed that currently there are two 11-foot and two 12-foot lanes. Please clarify.

The presentation said that all crosswalks will have pedestrian walk signals? What does that include?

What will the environmental site design for storm water management be? Mike Madden announced that there would be ESD for storm water management on the street. What will that look like? How much of it will there be?

Where are the wires in all the renderings? Why don't the renderings show where wires will be?

If utility wires and poles will be relocated, why can't they be placed underground?

MTA will be making quarterly reports about the public-private partnership; will the public have access to those reports? If so, how and when?

How can the public get a copy of the execution agreement?

Replacement of trees. It was explained that if a tree with a 10-foot circumference were taken down, the total circumference would be replaced but it could be done with 10 one-foot trees or five two-foot trees or some other combination. How will the public know what the plan is - what types of trees will be put in and where?

What is the budget for landscaping along Wayne Avenue? (It was stated that the residents want a tree-lined street or boulevard.)

Will Dartmouth be changed to two-way? The map indicated yes, but it was stated that that was a "typo". Can that be confirmed in writing?

In response to a question of whether the noise will be audible from the Traction Power Substation (TPSS), Mike Madden said that the noise cannot exceed 60 decibels, which "is the same as my conversation." Please confirm.

What would a tunnel under Wayne have cost? What will all the construction on Wayne cost? How do the two compare?

What bus service will continue? What bus service will be discontinued? Will the J2, J3 and J4 continue to run? If so, will the schedule be reduced and by how much?

Is it correct that the SS Green Trail will be an 8-foot wide asphalt trail on the north side of Wayne?

Where are the renderings of the planned tunnel? It was stated to contact MTA if they could not be found on the webpage. They are not easily found on the webpage.

What happens if there are cost overruns and the construction schedule is delayed? Will the concessionaire always be the one to pay the cost overruns? Is there a chance there could be problems like the SS Transit Center - weren't at least some of those cost overruns a result of change orders? Would the government (state, local) have to pay for some cost overruns?

Will the pictures of the PL be what is actually built? Mike Madden answered that there is a legal contract that will be carried out. Does that differ from the pictures?

Better renderings were requested - ones that clearly show where new pavement/widening will be added.

Are there cost savings (even short-term) if the Dale Drive station is not constructed now?

How was it decided to have a Dale Drive station?

Would a TPSS be required at the middle school (Silver Spring International Middle School) even if there were no station at Dale Drive?

What will be done for cut-through traffic for neighborhood streets? How long will it take to have solutions in place?

This last question is for the county, but I have included it since it was asked at the meeting. Is the speed camera on Wayne Avenue currently decommissioned? If so, why and will it be recommissioned?