

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

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April 11, 2014

Hon. James T. Smith, Jr.  
Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, MD 21076-1415

Dear Secretary Smith:

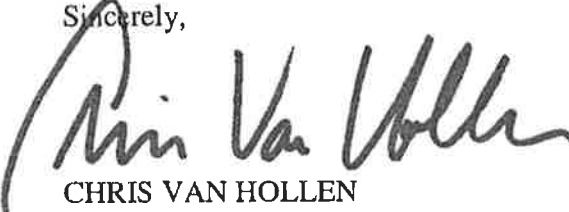
I am writing you on behalf of many of my constituents who continue to have deep concerns that several crucial issues relating to the construction and operation of the Purple Line are not being addressed by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA).

These concerns are not limited to one neighborhood but, instead, extend across the Purple Line route in Montgomery County. One of the most serious of these concerns is the placement of power substations in residential areas. In addition, communities are concerned about rail crossing safety, access to stations and to the Capital Crescent Trail, and noise and vibration abatement. While the MTA has made a number of major improvements at the request of various neighborhoods over the years, there is still more to do to make this project a success for our communities.

As MTA moves forward with the P3 process, it is essential that communities along the planned route have assurances that their concerns will be addressed and that commitments MTA has made to mitigate issues will be honored. I strongly urge that the Request for Proposals (RFP) language makes it clear that these issues are open for review and that the MTA is continuing to work with neighborhoods to find satisfactory solutions. Without such language, thousands of residents in Montgomery County will have no clear recourse.

If you need additional information, please contact Ann Humphrey in my Rockville office at (301) 424-3501.

Sincerely,



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
Member of Congress