

MTA Wayne Avenue Renderings (2009)

Mike Madden of the MTA:

“We prepared renderings in early 2008. These were intended to show how light rail would look operating along Wayne Avenue. When we showed these to the local community we received comments with some criticism about the size of the trees in the back ground. There was concern expressed that we were showing the neighborhood many years after the trees had been planted. In response to this concern, in April 2008, we prepared updated renderings for Wayne Avenue that included smaller trees. I have included the two versions so that you can see the changes.

Unfortunately, in spring 2009 when we put out the newsletter Mr. Ehrman refers to, we inadvertently used the earlier image. This was an honest mistake and one that we did not realize we had made.

First rendering



Second rendering



"These images were taken from video clips (we made stills from them) so that is why the cars aren't in exactly the same places as shown in the newsletter image.

As to the number of trees which will be removed, we do not have this information at this phase of the project yet. The plans along Wayne Avenue are still being refined and further developed, and the county has recently asked us to look at widening the Green Trail, where feasible. The Green Trail is not actually part of the Purple Line project, but the two projects will likely be built simultaneously. Widening the Green Trail will have a greater impact on the streetscape, and will probably result in additional tree removal. The decision on how wide the trail is (and the resulting degree of impacts) will be a Montgomery County decision, not the MTA's.

Once the plans are more definitive, which would occur during the upcoming Preliminary Engineering/Final EIS phase, MTA will be able to conduct a tree survey, actually counting and measuring all the trees. Maryland Forest Conservation Act and Roadside Tree Law have stringent requirements about tree conservation and replacement. The type of replacement trees will be recommended by the Forest Ranger based on the location of other adjacent trees, width of the planting strip, proximity to utilities, character of the neighborhood, and any other pertinent site factors known. Tree types will be chosen from the approved recommended tree list.

We are sorry about the use of the wrong image in the newsletter and would never deliberately mislead the public. I believe we have always been very clear about the impacts this project will have. There are some very fervent opponents to this project being located along Wayne Avenue, as well as some of the project's strongest supporters. We have met extensively with the residents in this area and will continue to meet with them as more detailed plans and information on impacts is developed."