




**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

**MEMORANDUM**

March 10, 2014

TO: Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

FROM: Roger Berliner, Councilmember, District 1  
Cherri Branson, Councilmember, District 5 

SUBJECT: Neighborhood coordination and advocacy during the Purple Line's design, construction, and initial operation

With the recent news that the Federal Transit Administration is recommending the Purple Line as one of the nation's seven "new start" transit projects, and the President's inclusion of \$100 million in his FY2015 Budget for the first installment towards its final design and construction, it is clear that this long-awaited project is on its way towards being realized.

We know from your actions and positions over nearly three decades as a Councilmember and Executive that you deeply care about how the Purple Line will affect those living adjacent to it. As you are aware, there are still many design and construction issues that concern those living along the planned alignment of the Purple Line, including residents of Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Silver Spring, Long Branch, and Takoma/Langley. Many of these residents, despite their vigorous engagement, feel disappointed in how their input has been received by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and County Department of Transportation (DOT) to date. We can and should do better for our residents, which is why we request that you establish an advisory body to ensure that we are designing a project that minimizes community and environmental impacts while delivering improved accessibility and transit connectivity that gets people to where they want to go.

Therefore, I hope you will join with us in pursuing COPLN's agenda, while continuing to support the expeditious completion of the Purple Line, the Capital Crescent Trail, and the Silver Spring Green Trail. Specifically, we urge that you:

1. Include the members of COPLN within an Executive-appointed task force to work with DOT, MTA, and MTA's eventual concessionaire to advise on means to provide a higher



level of noise and vibration attenuation, tree preservation and replacement, pedestrian and traffic safety, aesthetic design, etc. This task force should include all major civic or homeowners associations, as well as other similar bodies adjacent to the Purple Line's planned alignment. This task force would meet regularly during the design, construction, and initial operation of the Purple Line, and – in addition to providing a forum for these issues – would also serve as one more means of communicating information about the project through this period.

2. Call and chair a meeting with us and the District 16, 18 and 20 State Senators with this new task force, MTA, and DOT to begin addressing the task force's concerns.

We thank you for your continued leadership on this matter, and look forward to your response.

cc: Councilmembers