



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

July 30, 2010

Good afternoon,

As you know, there has been a great deal of news on the Purple Line, the proposed 16-mile, light-rail transit line extending from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George's County.

In January 2009, the County Council recommended that the Governor endorse a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) that, among other things, requested that a Dale Drive stop not be included in the LPA, but to design the line so it could be easily added if the community desires a stop in the future. In August 2009, Governor O'Malley made the announcement that the state would move forward with a light rail LPA. In April 2010, the County Planning Board approved the Purple Line Functional Master Plan.

I would like to share with you that the Montgomery County Council unanimously approved revisions to the Purple Line Functional Plan. Among other things, this plan: addressed specific station locations east of the Silver Spring Station; added additional trail access points (total of more than 20); and recommended that the Sanders/Woodside Station honor Harry Sanders. Further, I worked with Councilmember Leventhal to include language in the plan stating:

“There is no intent or desire to change the zoning in the single-family residential neighborhoods in and around the Wayne Avenue/Dale Drive intersection, if a station is established at this location in the future.”

This statement is critical, because it clearly states the intent of this County Council.

There is no doubt that the six and a half mile stretch of the Purple Line that passes through District 5 touches countless policy and quality of life issues. As you may know, the proposed Purple Line alignment runs through my own neighborhood.

My staff and I have worked with representatives from the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) on the Purple Line for almost four years to ensure that state officials were aware of the numerous issues facing our community related to this project. While, at the end of the day, the Purple Line is a State project, I will continue to work with MTA, local officials, and residents on this important issue. In fact, I wrote a letter in February 2008 to Silver Spring residents (signed by other councilmembers) stating that:

"The County will work with MTA to ensure this proposed route retains the residential character of Wayne Avenue and its adjacent neighborhoods; improves the overall mobility of County residents, and delivers the economic and environmental benefits associated with other light rail projects throughout the Country."

I would like to conclude by thanking all of those residents who wrote to me or raised issues with my staff at numerous community meetings. Your views are important to me and help me in my deliberations on matters that affect the residents of District 5. I know that by working together we will continue to achieve great things.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Ervin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Valerie Ervin
Council Vice President
Montgomery County Council - District 5