




MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

January 23, 2009

Mr. John Porcari
Secretary of Transportation
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear  Secretary Porcari:

After reviewing hundreds of resident's comments, the Maryland Transit Administration's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the County Executive and Planning Board's recommendations, the Montgomery County Planning Board's Staff Report, and reviewing similar projects, it is my opinion that the Purple Line will provide Montgomery County with much needed long-term transportation infrastructure and environmental benefits. However, I want to ensure that the development and implementation of the Purple Line does not negatively impact District 5 residents who live along the alignment. For more than two years, I have been meeting with numerous residents in my own neighborhood who have raised several issues that need to be addressed by MTA staff as the project moves forward.

I would like to request that in addition to the at-grade option for Wayne Avenue, that the MTA conduct a detailed analysis of the community's request for a tunnel (from the Silver Spring Metro to Mansfield Road) as part of the locally preferred alternative and preliminary engineering process. Considering the scale and impact that this project will have on downtown Silver Spring and its surrounding communities, I believe that a detailed analysis of both options merits consideration. With either option, at-grade or tunnel, I concur with the recommendations made to date that a stop at Dale Drive is not currently justified.

All alignment options through Silver Spring must include a detailed plan to improve pedestrian safety and bicycle accessibility, account for future automobile growth, address access to existing and new residences, public facilities and private businesses, encourage long-term transit usage and ensure vibrant long-lasting communities.

I am a strong advocate for mass transit improvements and building the infrastructure that the County needs for its future, but this cannot be done in a manner that impacts residents' quality of life. Thank you in advance for considering this request and for working with my office on issues that my constituents have raised. I look forward to continuing to work with your staff as new issues and concerns arise throughout the design, planning and implementation of this important project.

Sincerely,


Valerie Ervin – District 5

c: Paul J. Wiedefeld, MTA, Administrator
Michael Madden, MTA, Purple Line Project Manager
Phil Andrews, President, Montgomery County Council
Roger Berliner, Vice-President, Montgomery County Council
Nancy Floreen, Councilmember – At-Large, Montgomery County Council
George Leventhal, Councilmember – At-Large, Montgomery County Council
Duchy Trachtenberg, Councilmember – At-Large, Montgomery County Council
Marc Elrich, Councilmember – At-Large, Montgomery County Council
Mike Knapp, Councilmember – District 4, Montgomery County Council
Don Praisner, Councilmember – District 2, Montgomery County Council
Isiah Leggett, County Executive, Montgomery County Maryland
Arthur Holmes, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Royce Hanson, Chair, M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Planning Board
Rollin Stanley, Director, M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Department of Planning
Glenn Orlin, Deputy Director, Montgomery County Council
Mark Gabriele, President, Seven-Oaks Evanswood Civic Association
Alan Bowser, President, Park Hills Civic Association
Darian Unger, President, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
Jon Lourie, President, Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Board