

## Lyttonsville Place Bridge Temporary Closure

### Top Community Questions/Concerns

#### **1). Why can't the new Lyttonsville Place Bridge be constructed using phased construction instead of having to close the bridge?**

- This is not a bridge replacement project, but rather an entirely new bridge which will be longer and larger with higher clearance than the existing bridge to accommodate the Purple Line.
- The footprint of the new bridge overlaps nearly half of the existing bridge.
- The southern part of the existing bridge must be removed to make space to build the new bridge's abutment (portion of the bridge that supports the structure and joins it to the roadway) and the remainder of the structure spanning the Purple Line station and tracks.
- The grades of the two bridges are different and conflict with each other.
- Reducing the existing bridge to a single lane would result in extensive traffic delays and cause construction to take approximately twice as long (approximately 12 months vs 6 months).
- Phased construction would result in traffic safety concerns for pedestrians, drivers, and construction workers with active construction occurring immediately adjacent to traffic lanes and sidewalks.
- Safety is the Purple Line's top priority; therefore, full closure of the bridge is the safest construction method.

#### **2). What assurances can you give us that the bridge will not be closed for more than six months and what happens if construction takes longer than six months?**

- The Purple Line contract allows for the bridge to be closed for up to six months. Financial penalties will be imposed if the closure period is extended past six months.
- The Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP) will close the Lyttonsville Place Bridge for six months starting approximately on June 18, 2018. Demolition of the existing bridge structure would follow immediately after the closure. Formal notification will be provided 30 days prior to the bridge closure.

#### **3.) If the proposed Stewart Avenue connection to Kansas cannot be built, what other options may be considered?**

If the Stewart Avenue connection cannot be built there are no other temporary connection options. MTA worked closely with Montgomery County to examine other alternate routes suggested by the community, with the goal of mitigating the impact of the temporary Lyttonsville Place Bridge closure. The two options below were found to be infeasible:

- Talbot Avenue connection to Kansas Avenue:
  - This option would require the right-of-way to be purchased from CSX Railroad which would not be possible in time for the temporary bridge closure.
  - Additionally, this option would be a narrow, meandering route through an industrial area, which would be neither convenient nor safe for drivers.
- Grubb Road connection to Brookeville Road:
  - This route would require utility relocation and significant grading that would be not completed in time for the temporary bridge closure.
  - It also bisects a critical portion of the construction work zone, which would lead to public safety concerns.

#### **4.) How many cars and trucks will use the Stewart Avenue connection?**

In response to questions asked at the CAT meeting, MTA is currently coordinating with Montgomery County to evaluate the number and types of vehicles that may use the connection. Additionally, traffic volume data will be collected for 48 hours on Lyttonsville Place Bridge, including the number and type of trucks by hour and direction. Other traffic counts along Brookville Road and Lyttonsville Road are being reviewed to determine the volume of traffic turning into the neighborhood, turning toward East-West Highway, or traffic traveling north on Brookville Road toward Linden Lane and Georgia Avenue.

#### **5.) How will you manage traffic volume and speed using the Stewart Avenue connection so that residents are not significantly impacted?**

The Purple Line Transit Partners and the Maryland Transit Administration are working with Montgomery County Department of Transportation to develop recommendations related to limiting truck traffic and installation of various measures to reduce the impact of the temporary connection on local roads.