



**University Boulevard CAT Meeting #7
Online presentation – December 1, 2020
Questions & Responses**

Below is the list of questions and responses discussed during the December 1, 2020, online CAT presentation.

Question: Do you expect any portions of the project design to change now under the settlement agreement?

Response: The Purple Line does not expect any designs to change.

Question: It is possible to accelerate completion of certain infrastructure in and around the project that is disruptive to the community?

Response: The state is evaluating construction across the alignment, including areas of local community priority. MDOT MTA is actively working with design, construction, and manufacturing contractors to keep the project moving forward. Our focus is on completing design, permitting, and any unfinished work, first with paving, stormwater, drainage, and other utility projects now underway along the Purple Line corridor. We remain committed to continue working with the community and local businesses to collaborate and find opportunities to minimize any impacts to the best of our ability. If the state is reasonably able to advance work beyond utilities using the available pool of contractors, the state will do so.

Question: What is the prospect for seeking additional federal assistance, with the upcoming change in executive leadership at the federal level?

Response: The federal participation in the Purple Line project includes \$900 million in a Full-Funding Grant Agreement and access to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans. The state is not anticipating additional federal assistance for the Purple Line.

Question: What new general timelines can we expect for completion of various aspects of the project?

Response: The state will manage Purple Line construction until the new design-build contractor is on board. We do not have a new timeline at this moment.

Question: Where can I watch this CAT meeting later?

Response: Video of the CAT meeting is available on our website, www.purplelinemd.com

Question: What work will exactly be accomplished by state MDOT/MTA in the interim until contractors are back on the job?

Response: The state plans to manage construction for 6 to 12 months in the interim. Essentially, the state will do as much of the utility relocation as possible. This makes the job of finishing the Purple Line for the design-build contractor much easier. In addition to utility work, the state is also working to complete walls along the entire alignment and the Glenridge Operations & Maintenance Facility (OMF). The state will look at the possibility of completing other infrastructure, including bridges.

Question: In a best-case scenario, how long should selection of a new design-build contract take?

Response: We do not currently have a timeframe for choosing the design-build contractor. Parameters in the settlement agreement lay out the schedule that we will move forward with in order to bring the new design-build contractor onboard and to also understand the timeframe of State-managed construction.

Question: At what point in the construction timeline should we expect peak construction at the intersections with Riggs Road and New Hampshire Avenue?

Response: The utility work will be continuing for a while. There is no exact schedule for when a particular intersection will be impacted, but the work will be done during weekdays and handled with maintenance of traffic signage.

Question: Will issues like broken sidewalks that were left by the prior contractor be addressed in addition to the utility work?

Response: Yes. If there's a sidewalk in unusable condition, the project wants to know about that and fix it. Send photos and details about locations to outreach@purplelinemd.com.

Question: If Congress passes another round of COVID relief legislation, might there be some additional transit funding you could compete for?

Response: Assuming the next COVID relief package continues in this same vein, the Purple Line would not be eligible for Federal relief.

Question: There are a number of issues on state highways like Carroll Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue that are outside of the immediate construction zone. SHA was planning work in some of these areas. Will the Purple Line delay create challenges for SHA completing their work on other roads?

Response: No. If the MDOT SHA limit of disturbance does not impact the Purple Line limit of disturbance, there should be no delay.

Question: There is a large amount of construction rock rubble left along the sidewalk between University Boulevard and Holton Lane. Please ensure that this is addressed with all construction partners.

Response: If this rubble is related to work on the Purple Line site, we will address it. If it is found to be a case of illegal dumping, please alert county authorities.

Question: A number of storm drains on New Hampshire Avenue, right near University Boulevard, have been blocked with rocks for construction. This now leads to flooding and ponding water, which will freeze in the winter. When will this be addressed?

Response: If drain blockage has been caused by Purple Line construction, we will address it. If the blockage is found to be caused by illegal dumping, please alert county authorities.

Question: Purple Line workers have in the past been dumping all types of work trash along Adelphi Court and there has been private citizen dumping recently done at the Cool Spring Rd. staging area. Will MTA/MDOT be policing dumping in the coming months?

Response: If there has been debris left by Purple Line contractors, we want to know about it and get it removed. If it turns out the debris is associated with other work, we will work with the related agencies to make sure the information gets to the right people. Please send pictures of the debris, along with location, to outreach@purplelinemd.com

Question: How does the Purple Line improve bicycle and pedestrian connections and safety?

Response: The Purple Line sets up the connections at the stations and we work with the county governments and MDOT SHA, who will extend the connections beyond the station boundaries. There will be new bike lanes and sidewalks across the entire University Boulevard segment of the corridor, as well as signalized intersections. The entire system is designed using proven techniques for operating safety and for safeguarding those who interact with the railway itself.

Question: What employment opportunities will be created by the Purple Line?

Response: In the long term, the Purple Line will need to put together an operating and maintenance team. In the near term, there continues to be construction work. With the hiring of a new design-build contractor, there will be a need for local staffing of the trades.

Question: Will bus stops be relocated once the Purple Line is in service?

Response: The various bus operators in the region are responsible for the location of their bus stops. Decisions to reroute or remove bus stops following Purple Line revenue service would be made by the bus operators.

Question: When will the pedestrian and bicycle safety study be making in-person visits to neighboring areas along the Purple Line? Is there an office inbox to email that team? Do they have any website presence, etc.? I understand it is a 6-month study; will any clear recommendations be approved in the midst of the study; will recommendations require another step of seeking funds for each?

Response: This is a county program and should be addressed to county safety officials.

Question: How has Coronavirus affected the process? What are some of the biggest challenges you have encountered so far?

Response: As a primarily outdoor construction project, Purple Line has been seeing relatively few impacts with respect to COVID-19. All construction crews have increased their safety protocols, enforced mask-wearing, and set out additional handwashing stations.

Question: I think the Art-in-Transit program is a beautiful implementation to the Purple Line. Why do you think this is an important addition to the Purple Line?

Response: The Art-in-Transit will be an asset to the Purple Line stations. The Purple Line stations will be well designed, and the Art-In-Transit installations will significantly add to the appeal of the stations.

Question: How do you think the Purple Line will enrich connections and bring our community together?

Response: The Purple Line will allow people to get to their workplaces, schools, places of worship, and parks without having to make long car trips. Transit allows riders to make in-person connections at stations and on trains, in addition to connecting online without having to worry about causing a vehicular accident.

Question: When is the next CAT meeting?

Response: Historically, we have held CAT meetings every six months. Based on that schedule, the next CAT meetings will be held in the spring.