



Silver Spring CAT Meeting #8
Online presentation – May 25, 2021
Questions & Responses

Below is the list of questions and responses discussed during the May 25, 2021, online CAT presentation.

Question: Has the utility relocation project been completed for Bonifant Street between Fenton Street & Georgia Ave? If not, what can we expect for this block of Bonifant Street (east)?

Response: Utility relocations along Bonifant Street east are ongoing. Water, sewer, gas, PEPCO, Verizon, and overhead communication line relocations still need to occur, and these utility relocations cannot occur concurrently; We do not have an estimated end date for the utility relocations. The State will continue to oversee utility relocations in Silver Spring through the end of 2021, and the next design builder will pick up relocations that still need to occur.

Question: Once utility pipes have been relocated it is my impression that all that'd be left to do is laying the tracks and landscaping on our block. Can this work be done in the daytime so the residents in our senior citizens building can be allowed to sleep?

Response: Once utility relocations are complete, there are still many additional phases of work that will occur. Utility relocations will be followed by storm drain work, road repaving, sidewalk replacement, track laying, catenary pole placement and systems installation. Lastly, we'll do the landscaping for the area pending the seasonal conditions.

We try to do as much work as we can during daylight hours to limit disruptions to our neighbors.

Question: Should we expect our water to be cut off again (on Bonifant) or is this part of the project completed?

Response: The previous water cut off was due to a leak in the existing system and not a result of the relocation tie-ins. That repair was needed quickly, therefore there wasn't much time for notifications about this unfortunate event. We did have our field engineers go door to door, and our Outreach team made calls to the contacts they had. There will be at least one planned outage expected for tie-in work. This outage will be coordinated in advance through WSSC, which will notify their customers directly.

Question Along Wayne Avenue, when will the communication systems (Verizon, AT&T, RCN, Comcast) be moved from the old power poles to the new power poles?

Response: That relocation work is expected to commence this summer and will ultimately be completed by the next design builder.

Question: Can you offer any updates on the tree replacement Bill HB 80? Will the discussions with the communities about tree replanting start soon, or does it need to wait until closer to the opening of the Purple Line?

Response: House Bill 80 was approved by Governor Hogan on May 18, 2021, establishing an Urban Tree Program within MDOT. The effective date of the Act is October 1, 2021. MDOT's Office of Environment has initiated coordination with both the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) on the development of the Urban Tree Program. This coordination includes the identification of funding opportunities and potential partnerships and will be exploring the potential for providing grant programs to local communities as well as delivering state sponsored projects.

Once the internal coordination has sufficiently progressed, MDOT's Office of Environment will be reaching out to local stakeholders for further coordination.

Question: Can you confirm that MDOT's Office of the Environment will deal with the trees and Purple Line will not?

Response: Yes, that is correct, the bill was modified so it is not specific to the Purple Line. It is transit-focused and directed by Secretary Slater to be managed by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Question: Saturday work on Bonifant Street is problematic for the businesses. Can work occur on Sundays instead?

Response: During this ongoing MDOT MTA managed construction period, the State will make every effort to limit Saturday construction work along Bonifant Street. If weather or other events impact the construction schedule, the State will endeavor to use Sundays as the bad weather make-up day.

Question: Who is coordinating with the businesses along Bonifant Street?

Response: Minh Diep, minh.diep@purplelinemd.com, from the Business Engagement team has been working with businesses in the Bonifant Street corridor.

Question: Do you know yet where the catenary poles will be placed in the E. Bonifant sidewalk?

Response: We have drawings that show where they go, but it would be best to sit down and explain the drawings and discuss. The easiest way is to show them on the plans that will show exactly their location. Generally, along Bonifant East most of them will be outside of the roadway and in between the curb and the sidewalk.

Question: Tracks appear to be already down between Bonifant and the Silver Spring Library but it looks like jack hammering will need to be done? We hope this work can be done in the daytime hours.

Response: This location will be the site of the Silver Spring Library Purple Line station. The project has not initiated any work in this location. The library was built to accommodate the future station but some alterations such as concrete removal will be necessary when the next design-builder begins this future work. We would expect for this to be daytime work and it would be required for the design-build contractor to follow the noise requirements outlined in the contract.

Question: What is the noise waiver process?

Response: The Purple Line follows the noise waiver process agreed to with Montgomery County for any noise that will be above specified limits at night. The noise waiver process requires a public comment period that is advertised. The Purple Line Noise Waivers can be reviewed and commented on [here](#) during the open commenting period.

Question: Have the streetscaping plans been completed for our block that runs from The Silver Spring Library on Bonifant up to Georgia Avenue? If so, when could we see the drawings?

Response: Landscaping plans along the alignment are available for viewing on the Purple Line website, by looking under the construction heading and selecting "[plans](#)".

Question: Are there plans to address pedestrian safety for children attending Sligo Creek Elementary and Silver Spring International Middle School when school resumes in the Fall?

Response: Safety pedestrian access to the schools is very important to the project. The utility relocation phasing should be close to completion in the Fall timeframe. This work is the most impactful to pedestrians and crosswalks because there are a lot of moving work zones and temporary closures. As the utility work closes out and the next design-builder picks up with construction the work on Wayne will be more static with barrier walls and long-term closures of sidewalks during construction with pedestrian detours offering a most established route. If there are any questions for the County or additional requests, Montgomery County Department of Transportation.