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PULSE

Your guide to Purple Line news,
information and events

JUNE 2022

Message from Matt

Our open houses last week in College Park and Silver Spring were a great success. They gave our team a chance to introduce ourselves and meet with future Purple Line riders.

It was clear from the turnout of more than 100 people that there is great interest in this project as we ramp up construction activities this summer under our new design contractor, Maryland Transit Solutions (MTS). Thank you to everyone who came out with thoughtful questions, comments and observations.

The entire leadership team was on hand, including myself, concessionaire Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP) CEO Doran Bosso, MTS Project Director Terry Gohde and MTS Construction Manager Julio Valez. We are committed to delivering the Purple Line light rail system to Maryland and being good neighbors while advancing construction.

We really enjoyed finally talking with everyone in person, and it was fun to bring the model train and our 9-foot-long aerial graphics of the alignment to pinpoint the locations that interested you the most.

Our efforts to communicate regularly with the public don't stop here. For most of June, our Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings will take place twice weekly, giving us the opportunity to meet in small groups to discuss upcoming work in individual neighborhoods along the alignment. You can find the full schedule [here](#).

The CATs are member-driven teams with representatives appointed from neighborhood and civic associations, business associations and local governments. They are your friends, coworkers and local business representatives who are focused on the needs of the community. We appreciate their service and their input.

Just a reminder that if you have any issues related to construction, you can email us at outreach@purplelinemd.com or call our hotline, 443-451-3706 (English) or 443-451-3705 (Spanish).

Matt



Matthew Pollack, PE, PMP

Sign up to receive construction notifications at purplelinemd.com

Construction Photo/Update:



Photos clockwise from left: (Before) Crews from Priority Construction work on sidewalks in front of the University of Maryland's Stamp Student Union on March 27. (After) New sidewalks were in place in time for Maryland Day. (Before) Utility relocations were completed on sidewalks along Arliss Street and Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring in February. (After) Crews from Kaslo Enterprises put the finishing touches on new sidewalks along Piney Branch Road.

Business Spotlight: Sweet Sweet Kitchen

Growing up, Stephanie Carnegie spent untold hours watching her mother and grandmother follow the family recipes that would become the foundation of her entrepreneurial dream.

Instead of opening a costly brick and mortar business from the start, she and her husband, Avalanche "Mosada" Deen, renovated an old food truck and spent the next five years selling Caribbean dishes in parking lots and on street corners all around Prince George's County.

Eventually, they developed a following in Silver Spring and Washington, D.C., selling out within three hours after opening at 5 p.m. Popular items are curry chicken and cassava leaf.

In February 2020, Sweet Sweet Kitchen opened a

storefront at 904 Bonifant St. in Silver Spring, where they remain popular for their unique blend of traditional and authentic Caribbean and West African dishes.

"We look forward to expanding our customer base with the influx of business expected by the Purple Line," Carnegie said.

Sweet Sweet Kitchen is among hundreds of small businesses that dot the 16-mile Purple Line corridor. You can find a list on our [Purple Line Business Directory](#). This family-owned business is open Monday through Saturday, from noon to 9 p.m., and weekends from midnight to 5 a.m.

Follow [Sweet Sweet Kitchen](#) on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#). Pick-up and delivery options are available.



Purple Line Fast Fact:

**PROJECT
CONSTRUCTION
SUPPORTS MORE THAN
6K JOBS**



People Behind the Purple Line: Terry Gohde, Maryland Transit Solutions Project Director

Terry Gohde comes to the Purple Line with a wealth of experience in managing projects of similar scale and complexity. He leads the design build team that includes construction firms Dragados USA and OHL USA.

As an executive who participated in early work on the Purple Line in 2017, Terry is very familiar with the project and the Washington, D.C. area.

He has also worked on a variety of WMATA Metrorail projects in the past.

With more than 30 years of experience in the transit and rail industry, Terry has managed projects such as the Los Angeles International Airport Automated People Mover, the Denver Union Station Transit Project, and the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Transit System in northern New Jersey.

“Work never stopped on the Purple Line, but we are mobilizing for the next major phase of construction,” he said. “A good portion of the underground work has been done. Most of the light rail vehicles are complete or undergoing testing. The operations and maintenance facility in Glenridge has been constructed. The shaft that connects the Purple Line station in Bethesda to Metro’s Red Line is 75 percent complete, but there’s still a good amount of excavation that we must complete to make that connection. The project is in a good place for us to now do things that the public will recognize as a railroad.”

