



**Long Branch CAT Meeting #10
Virtual Meeting – February 21, 2023
Questions & Responses**

Below is a summary of questions and responses discussed during the February 21, 2023, virtual CAT presentation.

Question: What is the timeline to fix Bradford Place and Plymouth Street?

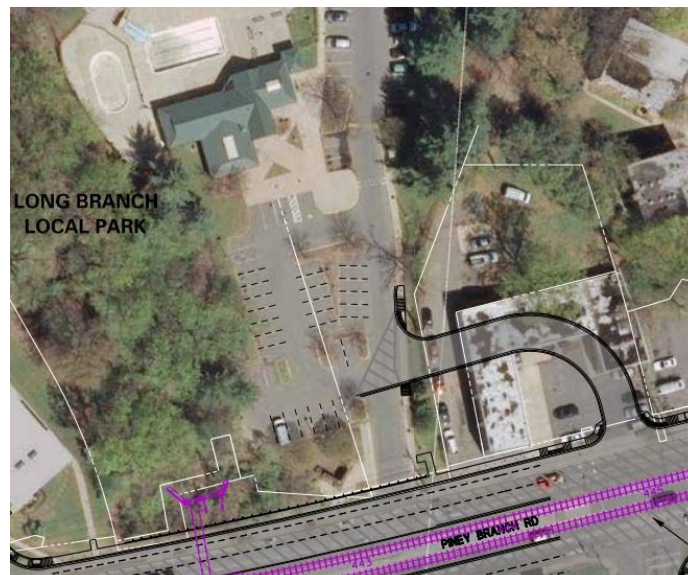
Response: Our project team is closely monitoring road conditions as construction progresses. We are currently evaluating locations along the alignment for repair or resurfacing. Major roadwork at this location is estimated to begin in 2025. Please contact our outreach team to report potholes or unsafe road conditions by calling 443-451-3706 (443-451-3705 Espanol) or email us at outreach@purplelinemd.com. Please provide an exact location and pictures if safe to do so.

Question: Will any of the bus stops on Arliss Street be removed because of the Purple Line?

Response: Bus stops are sometimes shifted during construction. Permanent relocations would be determined after completion of the Purple Line by the various bus service operations.

Question: Are there renderings available for what the entrance to the Long Branch Community [Recreation] Center will look like?

Response: We have renderings of our stations, but we do not have a rendering for this particular location. The graphic below is an overlay of an aerial map that gives you an idea of what it will look like in the final condition. The building pictured to the right of the current entrance has been demolished to make room for the future entrance. A larger, more detailed version of this graphic can be found on our website [here](#).



Question: How will the tracks impact the Long Branch Trail? Can the public make recommendations for connectivity?

Response: The Purple Line tracks will not impact the trail as the train will run down the center of Piney Branch Road. A new trail entrance will be built as part of the finalized curb and roadway improvements. The design is final and the public comment period is closed.

Question: Will the crossing of Piney Branch Road to the Long Branch Station be a protected crossing?

Response: This intersection is signalized and will remain so for pedestrian crossings, with a crosswalk and pedestrian signal.

Question: Can the public report any contract violations? What is the penalization process for ADA Access impacts?

Response: Please report any potential violations by calling our outreach hotline or sending a picture with the location and a picture. We will investigate immediately. If an obstruction of any kind is noted, the contractor, Maryland Transit Solutions (MTS), must resolve it within two hours of discovery to remain compliant with the incentive program and contract. Access and mobility requirements, including compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), are part of an incentive-based program, meaning there are no penalties assessed but instead incentives earned based on performance.

Question: How can the tiger team assist with outreach? What improvements from the tiger team are yielding benefits?

Response: The tiger team is an internal team whose function is to mitigate potential delays. While outreach is not part of its charge, we are always looking for ways to enhance outreach by utilizing social media, attending community meetings and even going door-to-door. The tiger team has already made an impact by resequencing work in key areas to allow for construction to proceed concurrently with utility relocations. This has been executed in areas such as Wayne Avenue, Kenilworth Avenue and Riverdale Road.

Question: Can signage or additional traffic control devices be added to the third lane closest to the sidewalk on Piney Branch Road?

Response: The third lane is currently closed to vehicular traffic as indicated by diagonal stripes and traffic control devices. Additional traffic control devices will be added to the lane to direct vehicular traffic.

Question: When construction is finished, what will be the zoning restrictions/changes near the station?

Response: Any permits or zoning changes near Purple Line stations would be enacted by the County. You can contact the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services by calling 240-777-0311 or visit their website <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps/>.

Question: Is the contract available online?

Response: Yes, the contract can be found on our website www.purplelinemd.com. Click on "About the Project" and "P3."

Question: How many contractor violations are tolerated?

Response: Contractor violations are not tolerated. Violations as they relate to access and mobility are tracked and incentives can be reduced or withheld based on the quantity of violations.

Question: Construction was recently postponed on Arliss Street, when will that start?

Response: Pepco has work independent of the Purple Line to complete in the area first. Once Pepco has finished its work, construction on Arliss Street can resume. Currently, about a one-month delay is expected.

Question: Will recycling bins be available at Purple Line stations?

Response: Yes, both trash and recycling bins will be available at stations.

Question: What is happening with the bridge over Sligo Creek?

Response: The Sligo Creek Bridge is being demolished and reconstructed, starting with the north side. Once this work is completed, traffic will shift to the reconstructed bridge and demolition will begin on the south side.

Question: How is enforcement of penalties dealt with when there is no contractor on site?

Response: When the project becomes aware of an issue, our contractor is expected to remedy within two hours to qualify for incentive compensation. If no contractor is onsite, they are required to resolve the concern when they become aware of it.

Question: When will renderings on the pedestrian/bike paths around Long Branch station be available?

Response: We have renderings of our stations, but we do not have a rendering for this particular location. If you are interested in a specific set of plans to better understand pedestrian and bike facility improvements, please call or email us and we can provide copies of those plans. We are happy to answer any questions you have as well.

Question: When will work resume on the top section of Manchester Place Station?

Response: Work is underway inside the Plymouth Tunnel underneath, where we are installing track for the western portal (near East Wayne). Work will resume on the Manchester Place Station within the next year.

Question: What is the response time to pedestrian impediments?

Response: When the project becomes aware of an issue, our contractor is expected to resolve it within two hours to remain compliant with the contractual incentive program.

Question: When is all construction work planned to be completed on Wayne Avenue and Arliss Street?

Response: Construction work is completed in sequences and phased. Work at this location will not be complete until completion of the project, which is estimated for fall of 2026.

Question: Please elaborate on the construction around Barron Street and the reconfiguration of the entrance to the Long Branch Community [Recreation] Center.

Response: The Long Branch Community Recreation Center will remain open during construction. The new entrance will pass through the current staging area on Piney Branch Road, and the current entrance will be transformed into curb line. Access will be maintained throughout construction. Beyond the reconstructed entrance, any driveway or pedestrian access improvements are under the purview of Montgomery County. In the final configuration, Barron Street will be signalized with pedestrian crosswalks at all four crossings.

Question: How will pedestrians safely access the trail and Community Center during construction?

Response: Pedestrian access to the community center will always be maintained, either with flaggers or with detours. This same tactic will be in place, when possible, for the Long Branch Trail. However, it is possible the trail will be closed for a maximum of two days to complete a drainage crossing. We will notify the community in advance when this work is scheduled.

Question: What do future traffic impacts look like in the Piney Branch Road area?

Response: After we complete our current work on the south side of Piney Branch Road with long-term lane closures through the spring, we will move work to the north side until next year. Next, we will work in the middle section and traffic will be pushed to the sides, maintaining two lanes in each direction.

Question: Can you elaborate on outreach efforts the project performs?

Response: The Purple Line has dedicated outreach teams that focus on both business and community engagement. Teams have bilingual staff able to meet with community members and produce materials in both English and Spanish. These teams work closely together and with our construction staff to communicate construction impacts in advance. Our team performs site visits, distributes door hangers, posts information on our website and frequently posts updates on our social media accounts. Of course, we also regularly host our Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings and participate in community events. We also email information and a monthly newsletter to those subscribed to our construction alerts. Please sign up for alerts through our website, www.purplelinemd.com.

Question: Why did the cost of the project increase?

Response: In our post-pandemic marketplace, major factors that influenced the cost include supply chain issues, rising material costs, labor shortages, inflation and insurance increases – all of which carry their own costs while also affecting industry risk assessment and allocation. Government agencies, local jurisdictions and private firms across the nation are experiencing significant increases on major projects due to these and other related factors.

Question: Who is paying for the project increase?

Response: Our concessionaire, Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP), is financing the additional cost through a combination of debt and equity. PLTP, in turn, will then be repaid through increased availability payments made by the State during the 30-year operations and maintenance period.

Question: How much will it cost to ride the Purple Line?

Response: Fares will be set closer to the beginning of operations. While we do not currently have a rate to share with you, it will certainly be comparable to other systems in order to maximize transit ridership.