



Silver Spring CAT Meeting #10
Virtual Meeting – February 9, 2023
Questions & Responses

Below is a summary of questions and responses discussed during the February 9, 2023, virtual Community Advisory Team (CAT) presentation.

Question: How can construction be limited around Silver Spring International Middle School and Sligo Creek Elementary School during school pickup and drop off?

Response: Daily lane closures may occur from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. One sidewalk at a minimum will remain open at all times. Start times are different for each school, but we make an effort to create an environment that is safe for children. Our outreach team is meeting regularly with PTSAs for the two schools in order to enhance communication. If you see any obstructions to pedestrian routes, please contact our hotline at 443-451-3706 (443-451-3705 Español) or email us at outreach@purplelinemd.com.

Question: Where in the sidewalk will the traffic pole on East Bonifant be? How much space will there be there around the catenary poles in relation to the gutters?

Response: There will be 16 Overhead Catenary System (OCS) poles along Bonifant Street between Georgia Avenue and Fenton Street. The distance from the pole to the roadway will vary, but it should be a minimum of 2 feet. The graphic below shows the locations of the poles.



Question: How can we access the pre-construction surveys if we had one completed for our property.

Response: We are happy to provide the survey to you if one was conducted. Please send us a request with your address.

Question: How often can we expect CAT meetings?

Response: Meetings are planned to occur twice a year.

Question: Who is responsible for graffiti removal?

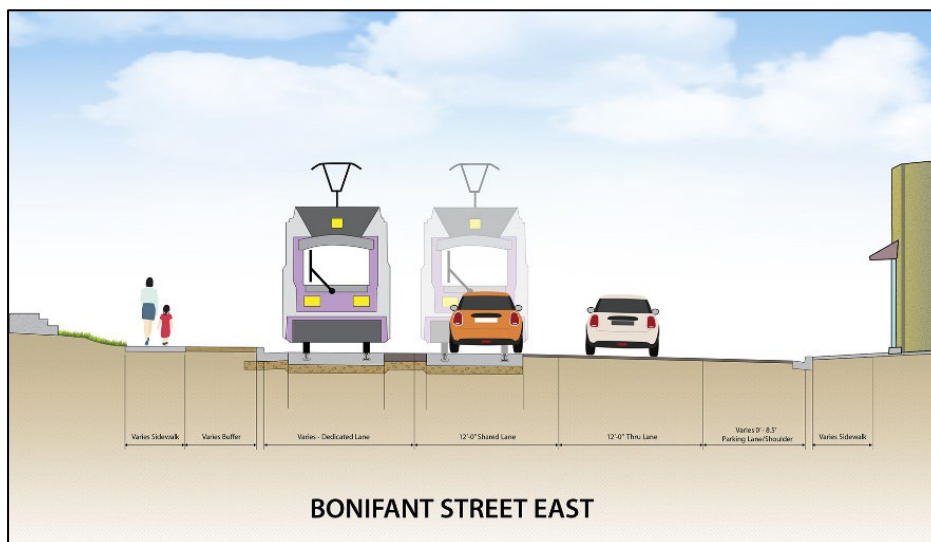
Response: Our team is responsible within the project boundaries, depending upon weather conditions and accessibility. Please contact us and we will schedule removal. Graffiti is a crime and should be reported to police.

Question: Who is responsible for business signage along Bonifant Street?

Response: We provide “Open for Business” signage to businesses directly along our alignment, and in fact, we will be installing a 130-foot long banner along Fenton Street at the Silver Spring Library to promote Bonifant businesses. Please contact us if you are a business owner in need of a sign.

Question: How much space will there be between the Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) and pedestrians on Bonifant Street?

Response: The distance between the light rail vehicle and pedestrians will vary greatly from the north side of the street as well as east to west. There will be anywhere from 2 to 20 feet from the edge of the sidewalk curb and the vehicles, depending on the exact location. The narrowest section will be on the north side of Bonifant Street, on the west end of Bonifant Street East from Georgia Avenue to Pershing Drive, where pedestrians will be protected by a fence at the curb line. The graphic below shows a cross section of what Bonifant Street East will look like in the final condition near Fenton Street.



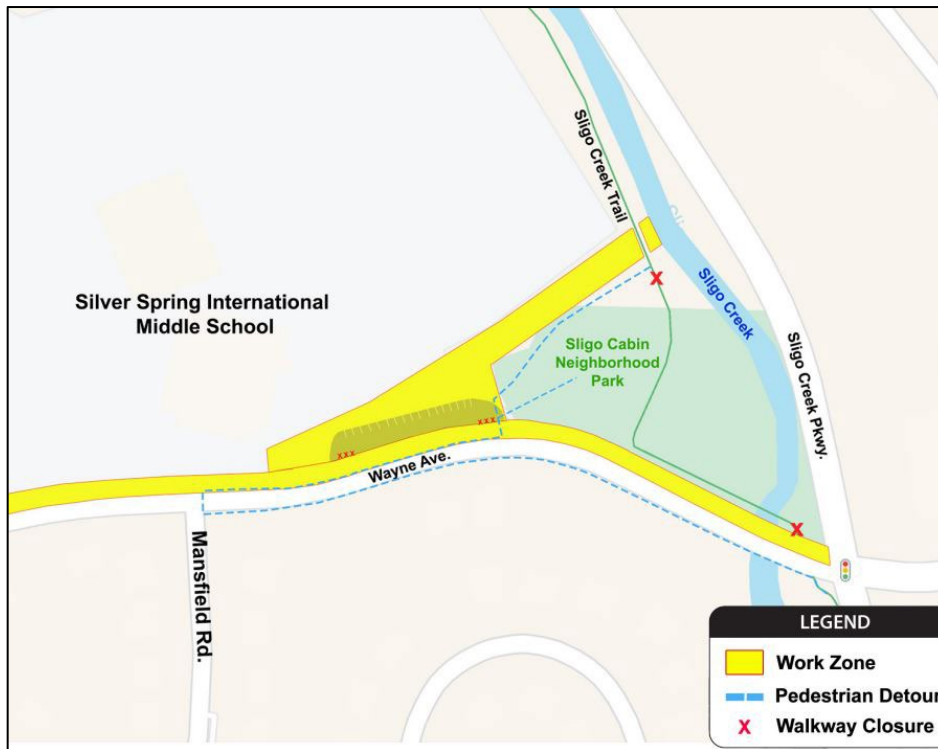
Question: What is the purpose of the large wooden platform between Wayne Avenue and

Sligo Creek Parkway?

Response: The purpose of the wooden platform is to provide support and protection to tree roots, as well as mitigate any erosion or run off into Sligo Creek.

Question: What is the Sligo Creek Parkway detour for pedestrians?

Response: The detour is detailed in the graphic below, which follows existing sidewalks ensuring the detour complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



Question: There is more traffic on Wayne Avenue because of the traffic pattern shift that has been implemented. Have revised traffic flows been investigated?

Response: An initial traffic flow assessment was conducted as part of the approval process for the Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) designs. The current plans are in accordance with Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) requirements and standards.

Question: How much of the area around the library will be blocked off as construction progresses?

Response: The work zone needed to construct the Silver Spring Library station was established in January. Access to the library, café, and surrounding businesses will be maintained at all times.

Question: The library community is concerned about egress – safe lighting, signage, and compliance for entrances.

Response: The location of the fencing has been adjusted to permit better sight lines for the businesses adjacent to the library and ADA-accessible sidewalks are always maintained. We have also added light plants and the banner display mentioned above to enhance the appearance of the area.

Question: If there are interruptions to utilities during construction, how much advance notice will be provided?

Response: Construction is coordinated directly with the utility owner. All notifications specific to service disruptions will be provided by the utility owner, such as Pepco or WSSC, directly to its customers.

Question: How is noise measured during construction, and who is accountable for making sure the public is unharmed by excessive noise levels?

Response: We strictly adhere to County noise limitations. Operations are carefully planned to accomplish a given task safely with whatever reduced impact from noise and vibration is feasible.

Question: Can signage include contact information for the Purple Line?

Response: Yes, we will certainly continue to include our contact information in any new signage where practical.

Question: Will you open the Purple Line in pieces or altogether?

Response: The entire system will open at once, which is optimal for testing the full system under operating conditions.

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), will finance the additional project costs 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: Will the Purple Line accept the SmarTrip card? How much is the fare?

Response: 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. The Purple Line will be fully compatible with the MTA fare system. We intend for the Purple Line to accept a SmarTrip card for payment and we are working to address compatibility issues. Fares will be set closer to the beginning of operations.

Question: Could you please explain the recent projected 7-month delay in completion of the project?

Response: The contractual deadline for revenue service has not changed. Local media correctly described a financial investing report projecting a potential delay, but we are holding frequent meetings with the project builder and concessionaire to mitigate any potential delays by adjusting sequencing of work and making other improvements to the construction process.

Utility relocations are certainly one of the challenges we are working through. Building a complex transportation project through a 16-mile corridor of vibrant and active communities is never going to be an easy task. The Purple Line team is committed to implementing solutions addressing the challenges inherent on a project of this size, scope, and magnitude. We will continue to work through challenges until the day passenger service begins.