

**Lyttonsville Public Meeting
Woodlin Elementary School
05/17/18**

Meeting Summary:

The Lyttonsville Public Meeting was scheduled to provide the community with updates on issues raised at a CAT Meeting held in Lyttonsville April 3rd, 2018. The project team heard the community's concerns and held the meeting to outline updated and revised options to better mitigate project impacts. The Public Meeting convened with an update on the Lyttonsville Place Bridge replacement and a description of the new official detour. After a question and response session, the project team described the temporary alternate access connection between Stewart Avenue to Kansas Avenue and business outreach being conducted prior to and during construction. The meeting concluded with an additional question and response period.

Question: Did you talk to WSSC? Were they willing to allow the bridge to move forward from their facility?

Response:

Yes, Purple Line has open lines of communication with WSSC. WSSC is concerned about how moving the bridge's location could affect their operations; they have trucks frequently moving in and out of their depot.

Question: Is there a hard start date for construction?

Response:

Assuming weather conditions permit, the bridge will close on June 18, 2018. The Purple Line team is communicating this start date to the community through multiple ways.

Question: During the period the bridge is out of service, how long will it take emergency responders to arrive in Lyttonsville from downtown Silver Spring?

Response:

The project team spoke with relevant emergency responders explaining that their vehicles will be able to use alternate connection during the bridge closure, including the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Battalion Chief. The Chief said that the temporary alternate connection from Stewart Ave. should be designed to accommodate emergency vehicles, which will help facilitate emergency response for the Lyttonsville community. County DOT has confirmed that the temporary alternate connection will be built to accommodate emergency vehicles. The chief indicated that he is not able at this point to estimate exact response times since the detours are not in use yet, but he did express concern about any significant changes being made to current plan during the bridge closure.

Question: Community member was happy to see that the smaller streets were removed from the official detour; however, they still believe that people will use those streets as the unofficial detour.

Response:

Hearing the community's concerns raised at the April 3rd meeting, the project team worked closely with County DOT to develop changes to the previous Detour Route. Several members of the team drove the Detour route to personally experience how the Detour might function and an updated traffic volume analysis was carried out. These efforts led to a rerouting of the western portion of the Detour onto roads designed to accommodate larger volumes of traffic than a few of the roads in the original route. We also are investigating the possibility of making sure that the Stewart Ave. connection will not be shown as an access route on Google Maps and Waze because it is a temporary route.

Question: Why can't the current northbound Georgia Ave. left turn restriction for Seminary Road be removed during the six-month bridge closure?

Response:

The Purple Line team and others have requested the temporary removal of the turn restriction from the State Highway Administration (SHA), which owns Georgia Ave. SHA Administrator Gregory Slater has committed to considering this change, while taking into account potential effects on pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic. The Project Team will update the community if any changes such as the left turn restriction are made.

Question: Can you put speed bumps or a traffic light on 2nd Avenue?

Response:

Second Ave. is a County road so it is under their jurisdiction. The County DOT would need to make such a decision.

Question: Will the Purple Line be adding a traffic light at the Lyttonsville Road and Lyttonsville Place intersection?

Response:

Both roads are under County jurisdiction and any decision to add a traffic light is up to the County.

Question: Has the Purple Line talked to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (Forest Glen Annex) about their employees' access? They have a gate that would be helpful to utilize.

Response:

Yes, we spoke with the operations manager of the Forest Glen Annex and learned that their gate at Linden Lane is open for employees to use as an exit in the afternoon. However, the operations manager indicated that they have no plans to use the Linden Lane gate as an entrance. The Linden Lane gate was closed due to budgetary concerns.

Question: The contract specifies that the Lyttonsville Bridge can't be closed at the same time as the Talbot Ave. Bridge. Who gave the authority to waive that element of the contract?

Response:

The MTA did not change or amend the Technical Provisions of the Purple Line Contract to allow PLTP to carry out construction work on the Lyttonsville Place Bridge after the County closed the Talbot Avenue Bridge. The County closed the bridge in May 2017 for safety reasons. The County is not a party to the contract, which is between Purple Line Transit Partners and the State of Maryland. The County, outside of our contract with PLTP, changed the conditions on the ground.

It should be noted that the temporary connection of Stewart Ave. to Kansas Ave. will provide better access for the community than the now closed single-lane Talbot Ave Bridge.

Question: Will additional barriers be available to handle people driving through the community despite the official detour? Community member is worried about construction trucks and suggests that a weight limit be put into place.

Response:

Regarding the temporary Stewart Ave. connection to Kansas Ave., the Purple Line team has worked extensively with Montgomery County to identify and implement traffic management measures aimed at managing traffic that will use this route during the bridge closure. As discussed at the May 17th community meeting, weight restrictions (No Trucks over 7000 LBS) will be posted, as well as peak period restrictions (Do Not Enter 4:00-7:00 PM) from Stewart Ave. and from Kansas Ave. (Do Not Enter 6:00-9:00 AM) intended to eliminate some of the potential volume using the alternate route. Traffic using the Stewart Ave. connection will be monitored to assess the situation during the temporary closure of the Lyttonsville Place Bridge.

Question: Will the Jones Mill Road area be disrupted during construction?

Response:

The Jones Mill Road area will not be affected by construction until after work in the Lyttonsville area is completed.

Question: Did you check with the Montgomery County Public Schools transportation folks to find out how these detours will affect the children's' bus transportation after June 15?

Response:

We have spoken with Montgomery County Public School System (MCPS) regarding how the detours will affect student transportation. MCPS does not anticipate a negative impact on the school bus and other transportation. We will raise this concern again with MCPS after the community has acclimated to roadway changes but in advance of the start of the new school year to help ensure that remains the case.

Question: What is the penalty for construction going past the mandated construction completion date?

Response:

A \$50,000 penalty per month will be imposed upon the Purple Line Transit Partners, if completion of the new Lyttonsville Place Bridge is delayed. The penalty will be prorated per day.

Question: How long will the Rock Creek Trail be closed? Community member suggests not closing Rock Creek Trail at the same time as Jones Mill Road.

Response:

Rock Creek Trail will only be closed for very short periods of time for some paving and restoration work. The Project Team will monitor for potential issues associated with the concurrent closure of the Rock Creek Trail and Jones Mill Road.

Question: Community member faces the new bridge and construction; how will the noise level affect her?

Response:

By contract, Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP) is required to adhere to the County's noise requirement that prohibits noise above a certain decibel level, except in the case where the County has issued a waiver. The Purple Line contractor is making every effort to mitigate noise impacts during construction. For example, because the project travels through a highly-developed corridor, construction vehicles do not use back-up beeps, instead the vehicles' back-up notice is white noise that is highly directional and can be heard primarily only behind the construction vehicles.

Question: What will the train's noise level be like?

Response:

The contract states that the train cannot operate at above a certain decibel level. Noise levels generated by Purple Line trains will be monitored during testing and operations. Also, the trains will be equipped with "wheel skirts" that reduce noise levels from the trains.

Comment: As Stewart Ave. empties into Brookville Road there is a sight distance issue and the community member recommends installing a new stop light there.

Response:

With the closure of the bridge, traffic in this area will be significantly reduced, greatly lowering the possibility of potential conflicts at this intersection.

Comment: Community member is concerned about the lack of crosswalks on the other side of Michigan, Pennsylvania and the other side of Kansas Aves.

Response:

Montgomery County is responsible for crosswalks on their roads and questions regarding crosswalks are best directed to the County.

Question: After the construction of the bridge what other construction will be happening on Brookville Rd?

Response:

As part of the Purple Line project, the only area along Brookville Road where new curbs, gutters or sidewalks will be built is adjacent to our construction on the side of Brookville Road where the existing parking lot for Montgomery County employees of the Brookville Depot is located. The parking lot for Montgomery County will have to be reconfigured, utilities will need to be moved, and islands created at the intersection of the Lyttonsville Place Bridge and Brookville Road.

Question: Where is parking for the Purple Line Station?

Response:

No parking will be provided at Purple Line stations except where parking for Metrorail riders already exists. However, for the Lyttonsville station, there will be a dedicated drop-off lane built along each side of the new Lyttonsville Place Bridge for Purple Line riders using the Lyttonsville station.

Question: Beyond crosswalks what else can be done in terms of pedestrian safety measures?

Response:

The Purple Line is working closely with County DOT to continue exploring additional pedestrian safety measures throughout the area. This effort also will be coordinated with the community to gain input from residents on any potential additional measures.

Question: What will the Purple Line be doing to stop people from violating the law during the construction period? Will there be police presence?

Response:

We will be working with the County to determine what additional police presence will be needed throughout the project during construction.

Comment: Community member is worried about the safety of children in the Maine and Michigan Avenue neighborhood during the construction period. A specific area of concern is the children's bus stop in that neighborhood which is treated as a rolling stop. In addition there is no sidewalk. She is also concerned about truck clearance for the home on the corner.

Response:

As noted in a previous response, the Purple Line team is working with County DOT in considering additional traffic management and pedestrian safety measures.

Question: Community member lives at Albert Stewart Lane and the back of her property faces Stewart Avenue Refrigerated trucks idle there all night long, will the Purple Line have signage to prevent trucks idling all night long?

Response:

PLTP construction vehicles are not allowed to park along or idle on residential streets, so this concern should be discussed with the County.

Question: Community member's home feels vibrations from Stewart; will the project be paying for any damage to her property from the additional traffic on Stewart?

Response:

Based on the environmental impact assessment, Purple Line construction is not expected to cause vibration impacts to homes on Stewart. However, if the resident is aware of property damage caused by construction of the project, this will be investigated.

Question: With the blue lines annotated on the map displayed Purple Line is putting in on Kansas and Michigan, there is parking on one side and there would not be space for through traffic, will Purple Line be working to fix that?

Response:

Currently, the plan is that parking will not be permitted in the half a block along Kansas Ave. and along Maine Ave. between Kansas and Michigan Avenues during the bridge closure while the temporary Stewart Ave. connection is open. We will be glad to discuss this proposed restriction with the community further.

Question: Is the Stewart Ave connection officially going to happen and will it directly coincide with the bridge closure?

Response:

Yes, this alternate connection is going to be built, and it is expected to be open when the bridge is closed.

Comment: Community member believes that taking a left turn from Stewart Ave. onto Brookville Road after the stop sign will create large back-ups into the neighborhood and Community member would like a temporary traffic light or other measure to make that turn easier.

Response:

The stop sign at Stewart and Brookville Road will remain. We expect there will be less traffic coming from the left on Brookville Road, so this left turn will be easier to make.

Comment: Community member does not want to limit the times drivers can access the connection.

Response:

The Purple Line team and Montgomery County feel that the peak period restriction for the Stewart Ave. connection is needed in order to limit the amount of traffic potentially using the temporary alternate route. This restriction along with the weight restriction are intended to address residents' concerns about potential impacts to the community from traffic using the temporary connection.

Comment: Community member thinks opening Kansas, Michigan and Maine Aves. to traffic is going to be a huge safety issue for children.

Response:

We understand your concern and this is why the restrictions for use of the temporary connection will be implemented, along with pedestrian safety measures.

Question: How does the Purple Line plan to address the fact that the safety and parking restrictions will be violated? Contacting the police has been unsuccessful in past. Can a hotline be opened to lodge that kind of complaint?

Response:

The Stewart Ave. connection to Kansas Ave. will be monitored to determine if additional measures are needed. Also, the Purple Line has a hotline and the community is encouraged to keep us apprised of any recurrent violations that occur up during the construction period.

Question: How can you contact the Purple Line?

Response:

The Purple Line team may be contacted via 240-424-5325 or outreach@pltcllc.com for any construction related questions or needs.