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Purple
Line

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Your guide to Purple Line news, information and events

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Mike Madden: Godfather of the Purple Line, Retires From MDOT MTA!

Long before the Purple Line project started rolling in earnest, Michael “Mike” Madden was nudging along other major projects for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA).

Madden spent nearly a quarter century managing the planning and preliminary design of such large-scale transit projects as the \$34.8 million Takoma/Langley Crossroads Transit Center and the \$456 million Metrorail Blue Line Extension to Largo.

His role with the \$5.6 billion Purple Line project dates to 2002, when then Governor Parris Glendening threw his political weight behind the light rail system running along the old Georgetown Branch in Montgomery County and extending east to New Carrollton in Prince George’s County.

Effective October 1, Madden retired after 48 years of working for

the state of Maryland. Mike will be missed by many, including those who sometimes disagreed with him.

“I have no doubt that the Purple Line would not be under construction today if not for Mike’s perseverance and dedication to this once-in-a-generation project,” said Prince George’s County Councilmember Dannielle Glaros. “The thousands of people who will ride this line annually and the members of the communities along the route may never know his name, but those of us who have had the privilege of working with him will never forget his contributions.”

MDOT MTA Administrator Kevin Quinn, who gave Madden a plaque at a send-off on September 25, said Madden “has been an indispensable resource on this and other substantial state projects. He’s worked on the Purple Line from its infancy; and he has served nobly as the state’s public face of the project as it has grown.”

Charles Lattuca, the MDOT MTA’s

director of the Purple Line project, said, “No one knows the Purple Line like Mike Madden. We will miss his presence and his institutional knowledge.”

The Purple Line is a 16.2-mile light rail system being built between Bethesda in Montgomery County and New Carrollton in Prince George’s County. Now about 20 percent complete, when finished it will link DC’s metro system, MARC trains, local buses and Amtrak.

Madden served as Purple Line Project Manager from the beginning of its planning and environmental process until he was named Deputy Project Director five years ago.

His work with the state dates to 1971, when he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and psychology from the University of Maryland. He spent 12 years working for the Maryland Department of Corrections and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, while earning his

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“I’ve reached a point where I’m ready to relax and rest a little bit and enjoy the rest of my life.”

- Mike Madden



Mike Madden Retires

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Masters of Public Administration in Urban Planning degree in 1977 from American University.

From 1983-1996, Madden worked in various planning and project management positions for MDOT MTA, the agency responsible for most commuter rail and bus service in the state.

Victor Weissberg, now the Purple Line Project Coordinator for Prince George's County, was the federal affairs person for MDOT MTA when Madden joined the Purple Line project. For several years, they rode the commuter bus together into downtown Baltimore.

While Madden led the study for the Purple Line, Weissberg tried to secure federal funds for the study.

Weissberg described Madden as the "Godfather of the Purple Line; the great connector," for having worked on so many major transportation projects, including some in Prince George's County, where Madden grew up.

"Mike and I have been joined at the hip on the Purple Line throughout the entire project," Weissberg said. "It's sad to see him go, but Mike leaves a rich legacy for his county of birth."

Madden grew up in the University Park section of Prince George's and attended schools in Washington, DC.

He is proud of the work he has accomplished in communities where he has many relatives and friends.

Madden said that despite obstacles

— such as a lawsuit that slowed the project for nearly a year — and having to attend hundreds of sometimes fractious night meetings, he remained confident the project would be built.

"I always felt very proud to be speaking on behalf of the state of Maryland and on behalf of MDOT MTA. I was thrilled that we were undertaking such a worthwhile project ... that was so sorely needed for such a long time. I just felt proud to be part of the Purple Line Team and to be the face of the project."

In his latest role with the Purple Line, Madden has primarily been responsible for MDOT MTA public outreach efforts and ongoing coordination with other key stakeholders, including Prince George's and Montgomery counties. He often attended Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings in a signature purple tie or lavender-colored shirt.

Silver Spring CAT member Paulette Dickerson wrote to Madden that she had heard about his retirement and wanted to "thank you for the great job you have done over the years. Your knowledge of the MTA system is all-encompassing. A great thing! I hope your future is happy, fulfilling and rewarding."

Montgomery County Councilmember Andrew Friedson said he and Madden started working together on the Purple Line when Friedson was student body president at University of Maryland and they were working on the alignment through College Park.

"He's a key reason why the Purple Line is finally under construction and will be forever remembered for the communities he's connected on this project and so many others through the years."

Weissberg added the MDOT MTA and the State "can be very proud of the rich legacy that Mike leaves of transformative projects; the Purple Line really being the zenith of the projects. He's just been an amazing force and trooper throughout the entire process. He will leave a void, but I'm glad that he is parting on the top of his game and want to wish him all the happiness and a rich and fulfilling retirement."

In retirement, Madden said he won't miss the 90-minute commute from Timonium to Purple Line headquarters in Riverdale, but he'll keep busy, including exercising and possibly volunteering, working part-time, or taking classes at local colleges. He said he will miss the project and his friends on the project. But he and his wife, Susan, will now be able to travel more and spend time with his seven grandchildren in Austin, Texas and Los Angeles, California.

"I've reached a point where I'm ready to relax and rest a little bit and enjoy the rest of my life," Madden said. "I certainly look forward to coming back and riding the Purple Line. This project is important; it's transformative and it will leave a legacy for many generations to come."



CAT Meetings Scheduled

MDOT MTA has divided the 16-mile Purple Line corridor into eight geographic areas, each to be represented by a Community Advisory Team (CAT). CATs meet twice a year and are intended to promote two-way information sharing between MDOT MTA/Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP) and the community. Each community will face more detours as the project ramps up. The current round of CAT meetings are underway. Visit purplelinemd.com for updates on these and other CAT meetings.

- **Riverdale-Glenridge:**

Tuesday, November 5
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Purple Line Project Office
1st floor training room
6811 Kenilworth Ave
Riverdale, MD 20737

- **Greater Lyttonsville/Woodside:**

Tuesday, November 12
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Rosemary Hills Elementary School
All Purpose Room
2111 Porter Rd
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Purple Line Construction Gains Steam

More than two years into the project, contractors pushed ahead with construction on the Purple Line light rail system.

Peter van der Waart, chief executive officer of the concessionaire Purple Line Transit Partners, told Montgomery County officials in September that the Purple Line has 12 of the project's 16.2 miles under construction, between Bethesda in Montgomery County and New Carrollton in Prince George's County.

"We're in deep construction," van der Waart said.

The progress was demonstrated September 5, when Governor Larry Hogan helped unveil the project's first tracks on Ellin Road in Lanham.

"In Maryland, we are proud to be setting an example for the rest of the nation, and the Purple Line is at the heart of our state's infrastructure success story," said Governor Hogan, who was recently

named chairman of the National Governors Association. "Two years ago when we broke ground on the Purple Line, I climbed into an excavator and personally helped get the construction underway. Since then, we've been grading, moving utilities, tunneling, and now we have begun building and laying the first segments of track."

For more pictures, visit: purplelinemd.com/gallery.



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