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MDOT MTA Purple Line Celebrates Winners of Elementary School Art Contest

First-Place Selections to be Displayed on Banners Along 16-Mile Purple Line Corridor

RIVERDALE, MD (January 21, 2020) – Students from four elementary schools who turned images of the Purple Line rail project into award-winning art will have their work reproduced on banners displayed at project sites near their schools, the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) announced.

“There are many talented, young artists in Prince George’s and Montgomery counties, and it’s exciting to see the project through their eyes,” said Jeff Ensor, director of the \$5.6 billion Purple Line project for MDOT MTA. “It was difficult to select the winners because of the quality of all the entries.”

This past fall, third graders from seven elementary schools along the Purple Line’s 16-mile corridor were invited to participate in the art contest. Students were asked to draw either a colorful picture of themselves and their families on the light rail or what they saw during Purple Line construction. Four schools took part and produced 140 pieces of art. Purple Line staff reviewed and selected the first-place artwork, one from each of the schools:

<http://bit.ly/38og1Y0>.

Glenridge, Langley Park-McCormick, Riverdale and Woodlin elementary schools participated in the contest. Lesli Leath, a senior community liaison with the Purple Line project and contest organizer, said the winners were selected based on “originality, vibrancy and authenticity.”

“Clearly, there’s real artistic talent in schools along the Purple Line corridor,” she said.

“It was an honor to participate in the Purple Line art project,” said Natiqia Riley, principal of Riverdale Elementary. “Our hopes are to share Riverdale Elementary’s remarkable and radiant energy on this new chapter in our community. Our students were super excited and wanted to share their love for our community as well.”

The Purple Line is a light rail system that will extend from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George’s County. It will provide a direct connection to the Metrorail Red, Green, Yellow and Orange lines at Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park and New Carrollton. The Purple Line also will connect to MARC, Amtrak and local bus services.

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MDOT MTA is one of the largest multi-modal transit systems in the United States. In addition to developing the Purple Line, MDOT MTA operates LocalLink and commuter buses, Light RailLink, Metro SubwayLink, MARC Train service and a comprehensive Mobility paratransit system. MDOT MTA's goal is to provide safe, efficient and reliable transit across Maryland with world-class customer service. To learn more, visit mdot.maryland.gov, mta.maryland.gov, or purplelinemd.com/en/.

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