



**University Boulevard CAT Meeting #10
Virtual Meeting – February 2, 2023
Question & Responses**

Below is a summary of questions and responses discussed during the February 2, 2023, virtual Community Advisory Team (CAT) presentation.

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 will be repaid through increased availability payments made by the State during the 30-year operations and maintenance period.

Question: How do you plan to close the \$4 million deficit gap?

Response: We have the budget to pay for the cost increase. The State’s portion of the project will be paid for by the Transportation Trust Fund.

Question: What percentage of utility lines still need to be relocated?

Response: Utility relocations are 78% complete with 22% remaining.

Question: Is there a PLA agreement in place with the new contractor?

Response: Yes, Design-Builder Maryland Transit Solutions has signed Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) with several unions. These documents are collective bargaining agreements between a contract owner and labor organizations that establish the terms and conditions of employment for a construction project.

Question: When will storm drain work in the three sections achieve 100% completion?

Response: We estimate storm drain work will be complete by mid-2025, but that is dependent upon the completion of utility relocations.

Question: When will potholes be addressed in the University Boulevard corridor?

Response: We understand that potholes are very frustrated for everyone. Our project team is closely monitoring road conditions as construction progresses. We are currently evaluating locations along the alignment for repair or resurfacing. As you likely know, this area is a heavily active work zone, with multiple utility relocations ongoing adjacent to and within the roadway, so we patch excavation sites daily and use metal plates to cover trenches when needed. Please contact our outreach team to report potholes or unsafe road conditions by calling 443-451-3706 (443-451-3705 Español) or email us at outreach@purplelinemd.com. Please provide an exact location and pictures if it is safe to do so.

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: How will the community be informed about road closures?

Response: The project team distributes public notifications via our notification system, often 30 days in advance of new work. Customers can sign up to receive alerts through our website, purplelinemd.com. Notifications are also posted on our website and social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), which can be found [@purplelinemd](https://twitter.com/purplelinemd).

Question: Please indicate the subcontractors associated with paving, maintenance of the construction, and the general roadway patterning.

Response: Our design-build contractor, Maryland Transit Solutions (MTS), is responsible for these items in accordance with Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) standards. Please call Carla Julian for more information at 914-336-0938.

Question: What is the proposed green space development or retention at the Crossroad's station.

Response: There is no green space development or retention associated with the Purple Line project at Takoma-Langley Station.

Question: Where will additional hard corners and pedestrian walkways be placed?

Response: The Purple Line project will enhance pedestrian safety around each of the stations, with ADA complaint-crosswalks and upgraded signals to include pedestrian countdowns.

Question: Why has there been so little concentration on pedestrian related design issues northwest of Riggs Road?

Response: The area northwest of Riggs Road falls outside of the Purple Line project boundaries, which are confined to University Boulevard.

Question: When will the roadways be repaved or do we have to wait until completion in 2026?

Response: We understand that potholes are frustrating for everyone. Our project team is closely monitoring road conditions as construction progresses. We are currently evaluating locations along the alignment for repair or resurfacing. As you likely know, this area is a heavily active work zone, with multiple utility relocations ongoing adjacent to and within the roadway, so we patch excavation sites daily and use metal plates to cover trenches when needed. Please contact our outreach team to report potholes or unsafe road conditions by calling 443-451-3706 (443-451-3705 Español) or email us at outreach@purplelinemd.com. Please provide an exact location and pictures if it is safe to do so.

Question: Could you please explain the recent projected 7-month delay in completion of the project? Is this due to MTA problems?

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.