



**University Boulevard CAT Meeting #8
Online presentation – May 19, 2021
Questions & Responses**

Below is the list of questions and responses discussed during the May 19, 2021, online CAT presentation.

Question: President Biden and Secretary of Transportation Buttigieg are both big fans of trains. Is there any effort underfoot to have either of them tour the Purple Line site and express their enthusiasm for this project?

Response: Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) Administrator Kevin Quinn has met personally with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who has shared his unequivocal support for public transportation infrastructure and major projects such as the Purple Line. President Biden and Sec. Buttigieg have open invitations to visit and share their tremendous enthusiasm for the project. We look forward to our national leaders riding the light rail line.

Question: Did the Purple Line gain any needed additional funding with the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act or the previous coronavirus relief bills?

Response: Since its inception, the Purple Line has had federal financial support. In August 2017, in Glenridge, Governor Larry Hogan and then-United States Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao signed a \$900 million full funding grant agreement, locking in federal dollars for the project. That funding remains intact. The American Rescue Plan Act solidifies that funding but does not add to it.

Question: When do we think tracks will begin being laid down--are they already in some places? And when do we think we'll expect peak construction between New Hampshire and Riggs?

Response: Some tracks are already in place near the Glenridge Operations and Maintenance Facility and near the College Park Metro Station. The timetable for peak construction between New Hampshire Ave. and Riggs Rd. will be determined in coordination with the new design-build contractor who will be selected in the coming months.

Question: Is there any concern on the part of Maryland that the proposed Maglev train would divert funding needed for the Purple Line?

Response: There is no concern on the part of Maryland that the proposed Maglev would divert funding needed for the Purple Line.

Question: How loud are the light rail cars? Are they as loud as Metrorail cars?

Response: We expect that the light rail will be quieter than Metro. A lot of Metrorail is up in the air, so it is louder and generating noise through all the elevated structures. The Purple Line will be mostly on street level. The other piece has to do with speed, and they are operating at a higher speed. Additionally, Purple Line cars are equipped with special wheel covers to help reduce noise.

Question: Will Prince George's County be funding new sidewalks on University Blvd. near its intersection with Adelphi Rd. or is that part of the Purple Line scope?

Response: While utility work is ongoing, however, the project is not installing final sidewalks or traffic signal crossings, unless it is needed for utility work. That work will occur by the new design-builder once they are brought on board. We do have a responsibility to replace a sidewalk that is removed for utility relocation. The Purple Line will be building new sidewalks on University Blvd. within our project's alignment. We cannot speak to what improvements Prince George's County will make.

Question: Along with the plans, are there renderings of the plans, especially at the intersections to see pedestrian crosswalks, etc.?

Response: We do have landscape plans available on our website and station renderings. However, they do not show pedestrian crosswalks since many of the designs are not final as this is a design-build project. We can share engineering drawings with you if you are interested in seeing those to see the sidewalks and crosswalks in the final condition.

Question: What work does the design-construction partner do? Is it expected that a design-construction partner will be on board before the utility relocation work is completed?

Response: Once the new design-builder is on board, they will complete construction to bring the project to revenue service. We have a certain amount of utility relocation the state is undertaking, but we will not be able to get to all of it before the new design-builder is on board and they will be doing some of their own utility relocations.

Question: What is the anticipated completion date of the project?

Response: We cannot provide that at this time. We are asking the proposers to submit their own schedule as well as pricing to bring us forward to revenue service.

Question: By any chance, is burying the power lines along University Blvd. being considered as part of the utility relocation work? If so, is there any way the public can advocate for burying the power lines? I think this is would make the area much more appealing, and may help the image of already impacted businesses

Response: We're in the final stages of power relocation and starting to line up communications line, which, in most places those are already installed. There are some underground electric relocations, but most overhead lines are going to remain in this corridor.

Question: What does the team think is the biggest challenge going forward on University Blvd.? What is the biggest opportunity from the team's perspective?

Response: Our biggest challenge is getting the utilities out of the way. This utility relocation is very disruptive, as we are in travel lanes continuously up and down the roadway. We have a certain amount of utility relocation the state is undertaking, but we will not be able to get to all of it before the design-builder is on board. We want to make sure the contractor is fully cognizant of what they need to be doing and they are prepared to go out there and continue with the completion of utility work so that we can take the next steps which will be ultimately laying the tracks down the corridor. The opportunity is as we finish our construction, Prince George's County will come in and do additional work beyond what the scope of the Purple Line is to increase the pedestrian feel of the whole area. The county is currently engaged in a study looking at a series of potential areas of the Cool Spring/Adelphi area.

Question: Our banners are disappearing along the power lines up and down University Blvd. and New Hampshire Ave.

Response: We will look into that and work directly with you on that issue.

Question: When and what can we expect out of the next round of CAT meetings? Is it possible to know who is part of the CAT?

Response: We want to provide CAT members a better understanding of construction that will happen between now and the next CAT meeting. CAT meetings are held every 6 months. We want to show our path to completion and help the community understand what is going on. To respect the privacy of all CAT members, we do not share their names and contact information.

**Question: Is it possible to keep the community looking clean and nice during construction?
University Blvd. at 23rd Ave. looks very messy right now.**

Response: We will work to address this. Please continue to share any aesthetic concerns to our team. You can email our outreach team at outreach@purplelinemd.com or call the English hotline: (443) 451-3706 or the Spanish hotline: (443) 451-3705.

Question: Could elected officials get advanced notice of big things happening so we can notify our constituents?

Response: The project sends out notifications that impact travel lanes and sidewalks in advance of work beginning to let residents know when activities are occurring in the communities. Technical provisions dictate when public notification is required such as night work, lane closures, weekend work etc.

Question: During construction are they going to temporarily remove the bus stops and then after construction will they bring them back to where they were before?

Response: The Purple Line continues to coordinate with the operators of local and regional bus services. If bus routes/stops are altered, notification will be publicized through those operators.

Question: Are the bus routes going to be on the same street or will it be on a different street?

Response: The various bus operators in the region are responsible for the location of their bus stops. Decisions to reroute or remove the bus stops following Purple Line revenue service would be made by the bus operators.