



Town Council
David Lublin, *Mayor*
Kathy Strom, *Vice Mayor*
Al Lang, *Secretary*
Linna Barnes, *Treasurer*
Patricia Burda, *Community Liaison*

October 19, 2010

Mr. Michael Madden
Project Manager
Maryland Transit Administration
6 Saint Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mr. Madden,

On behalf of the Town of Chevy Chase, I want to thank you for suggesting to Mayor Kathy Strom a year ago that MTA and the Town work together on mitigation measures to lessen the negative impacts of the proposed Purple Line project on our community. We appreciate the time you have given our Mitigation Advisory Group to date, making staff available and answering our questions. Although some questions are still outstanding, MAG has learned much about the project from you.

Based on what we now know – and before plans on Purple Line design get any further along -- the Town wants to be clear about our three most urgent mitigation concerns: noise, visual impacts and most importantly, safety. We ask that you work with our Mitigation Advisory Group in the months ahead on meaningful measures to mitigate these impacts.

Here are the Town's top mitigation concerns and proposed solutions:

1. **Noise Abatement** – You understand our concern that the Purple Line will increase noise levels in the Town. As you know, we do not believe the current MTA noise analysis accurately reflects noise levels in the Town (since no noise measurements were actually taken in the Town) and thus cannot accurately reflect what the impacts of the train noises will be on our community. We are pleased that you plan to conduct another noise study. When your team is ready, you will get full cooperation from the Town to ensure that you get access to sites within the Town so that accurate measurements can be taken. At a bare

minimum, we know that braking, curves and the track crossing will have noise impacts. Therefore, we would like to see higher noise walls (higher than the 3-foot-high walls now planned) adjacent to the Town as well as depressing the track beds wherever possible along the Town's border, just as it will be in the Wisconsin Avenue tunnel, with earth on either side.

2. **Minimizing Visual Impact** – In addition to noise from the trains, we foresee significant visual impact to Town residents living along the Purple Line route. The higher noise wall suggested in #1 will help to mitigate visual intrusion as well, particularly if greenery on the walls creates a leafy barrier between the residential area and the transitway. We also request that a privacy fence be installed along the section of the Capital Crescent Trail that is to be elevated. Otherwise Trail users will have a direct view into the second floor bedrooms of a number of Town residences.
3. **Safety** – This is our most important concern moving forward. As you have stated, trains will be running 45-50 mph in many places along our ROW and within feet of homes and backyards. We want to make sure that it is difficult for anyone to get on the tracks along the route, yet, at the same time, it is crucial to the Town that a crossing be maintained at Lynn Drive. Slower train speeds, enhanced operator line-of-sight and pedestrian warning systems (both for the train operator and pedestrians) are imperative. Likewise, the higher walls mentioned in 1 and 2 above will help prevent unwanted and unsafe crossings at “unofficial” places along the tracks. MAG wants to have a detailed discussion with your team on these measures early in the planning process.

We believe these specific concerns and suggestions for solutions can be the starting point for productive collaboration between MTA, the County and MAG in the months ahead. We are counting on you to work with us as full partners to find reasonable and meaningful mitigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Lublin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Lublin
Mayor
Town of Chevy Chase

cc: Tom Autrey, Montgomery County Transportation Planning
Gary Erenrich, Special Assistant to the Director for WMATA Affairs, Montgomery
County Department of Transportation
Councilmember Roger Berliner
Councilmember Nancy Floreen
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Councilmember George Leventhal
Hans Riemer
Senator Rich Madaleno
Delegate Al Carr
Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher
Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez
Congressman Chris Van Hollen