



Bethesda -Chevy Chase CAT Meeting – Questions and Responses
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
October 17, 2017

Question: At the Connecticut Avenue station, will the transit bridge and the trail bridge be the same heights?

Response: The transitway and the pedestrian bridge will be equal in height.

Question: Will the Jones Mill Road underpass cause the roadway grade to change?

Response: The elevation at Jones Mill Road will remain the same, with the Purple Line and CCT passing below the roadway.

Question: How can a resident schedule a pre-construction survey? How was eligibility determined? How are owners notified?

Response: Eligibility for a pre-construction survey depends on many factors such as the type of work and impacts in your local area, as well as your distance from the work zone. If you have questions about your specific property or have received a notification for pre-construction survey via certified mail, please contact Carla Julian at carla.julian@pltcllc.com.

Question: Will the data collected during the surveys be stored with the contractor? Is the data secure?

Response: All data from pre-construction surveys will be turned over to PLTP and saved in a secure database. Data collected will not be shared with outside parties.

Question: Regarding accountability, according to the Technical Provisions, there are 5 or 6 areas where PLTP is able to self-rate its performance. Where is the accountability and how do residents know their concerns are being addressed? Notifications are of specific concern.

Response: While PLTP will “self-rate” in several areas, they need to provide documentation verifying the ratings. MTA will also be responsible for Quality Assurance Oversight and will be monitoring PLTP’s performance requirements in accordance with the P3 Agreement.

Question: Is there a general schedule for the removal of trees along the Georgetown Branch?

Response: The goal is to remove as many trees as possible this fall/winter in order to avoid the nesting of migratory birds in the spring. Removals are beginning in Bethesda and moving east. All tree removal will adhere to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) process.

Question: How will larger trees be removed?

Response: Licensed tree removers have been contracted to clear the Georgetown Branch. Due to the confined work area, large trees will be cut using bucket trucks and hand saws.

Question: How will CATs meeting agendas be determined? Can the members suggest topics for discussion?

Response: Since a key purpose of CATs is to keep communities apprised of work in your communities, the CATs agendas will largely be driven by construction schedules. Prior to each meeting, Joy Hamilton will periodically reach out to members for suggested topics.

Question: When will brush that is drying be removed from the trail?

Response: Brush is currently being chipped and removed. The process should be completed within the next three weeks.

Question: How will meeting minutes be captured?

Response: All presentation materials and questions/responses will be posted at <http://www.purplelinemd.com/en/community-advisory-teams-cats/cats-meeting-materials/bethesda-chevy-chase> following each meeting.

Question: When will the Army Corp. of Engineers' report be available?

Response: The JPA, Joint Permit Application, process began last spring with Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP) hosting public hearings in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Following the hearings, all permits applications were filed and approval is expected imminently. For further information on the JPA, PLTP put up a website (<http://www.purplelinejpa.com>) at the request of the resource agencies. The JPA was posted on the website, and it also was used as part of the public notice and comment process.

Question: The perception is that construction cannot begin until all permits are approved. Is this true?

Response: Permits must be approved for specific activities and specific areas, so no activity will commence without the required permits. This does not mean that all permits for the entire project need to be received prior to any work being conducted.

Question: Will workers park in local communities during construction?

Response: PLTP's contract with MTA does not permit workers to park on residential streets. PLTP has identified several locations along the corridor for workers to park and then be shuttled to work sites.

Question: How will air quality/dust be measured on site? How will community members be notified if hazardous materials are found on work sites?

Response: All work will be completed in compliance with the project's environmental plans. Hazmat testing is being conducted by the contractor and if there is evidence of hazardous materials, PLTP would follow MDE requirements for safe removal and disposal and follow protocols for notifying local residents if necessary.

Dust is typically the prevalent air quality issue associated with large construction projects in urban settings. Purple Line has implemented proven best management practices from other large projects in the area including the requirement for an inspector specially trained to monitor air quality via an EPA-certified Opacity training course. This inspector regularly monitors the opacity level (which is a visual analysis procedure for the amount of dust and other particulates in the air), particularly at the edge of the Purple Line work areas. In accordance with industry standards the P3 Contract allows 20% opacity on site and 15% opacity at the property (or Right-of-Way line), which is a relatively low value. If the readings exceed this level, PLTP is required to address the issue within two hours (it is usually addressed much sooner). The contractor will stabilize open ground to the extent possible with seed and straw to prevent dust but if dust levels become elevated, water trucks will apply water to haul roads and work areas to allay dust.

Question: When will work begin on the walls near Newdale Road?

Response: Construction on the walls in this area is currently scheduled to begin in Spring/Summer 2018.

Question: Is there a master construction schedule currently available?

Response: Construction overview in the Bethesda area

- Bethesda Station - Summer 2017 – 2021
- Future Capital Crescent Trail - Fall 2017 – 2021
- Utility Relocation - Winter 2017 – Fall 2018
- Walls - Spring 2018 – Winter 2019
- Grading - Winter 2019 – Spring 2020

- Tracks - Summer 2020 – Winter 2020
- Train Communication - Winter 2020 – Summer 2021
- Testing/Commissioning – Summer 2021 – Winter 2021
- Purple Line Operations Begin – Spring 2022

Question: In the Connecticut Avenue area there are five major construction projects planned. Who is responsible for coordination of this work?

Response: Montgomery County DOT's Department of Permitting Services is responsible for the coordination. The Purple Line team is closely coordinating with the developers at Chevy Chase Lake since this development is directly adjacent to the Purple Line.

Question: Does PLTP anticipate any changes to design?

Response: Design on the project is nearing completion. There will be no major changes to the design, including the alignment or stations.

Question: What will divide backyards from the Limit of Disturbance?

Response: There are different contractual requirements depending upon the location of the property. Between the Bethesda Station and Jones Mill Road, fencing, noise walls, and/or retaining walls will be placed adjacent to residential areas. Please contact Construction Outreach for specifics related to your property: pltcllc@outreach.com or 240-424-5325.

Question: Does the community have the opportunity to weigh-in or suggest changes to the project?

Response: Design changes, within certain parameters, would need to be directed by and funded by the County.

Question: When will responses to questions asked by the Council be provided?

The responses may be found on the County website:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/HomePageDocuments/TE_QandA_10-19-27.pdf