



Bethesda -Chevy Chase CAT Meeting – Questions and Responses
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
January 31, 2018

Utility Work

QUESTION: Do notifications for lane closures for utility work include sidewalk closures? Who do we contact if sidewalks on both sides of the street are closed?

Response: Maintenance of Traffic plans do not include sidewalk closures on both sides. If a sidewalk needs to be closed, the closure will follow the appropriate SHA standards for sidewalk closures and pedestrian detours. PLTC will also provide a flagger as needed when vehicles are entering or exiting the construction entrance.

If you have questions about closures, please contact the Construction Hotline at 240-424-5325.

QUESTION: It is unclear what utility work is being done by Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP), and what work is being done by other utilities (e.g. WSSC).

Response: The responsibility of work varies by the utility company and the type of work. Usually PLTP will be responsible for water and sewer work. Gas line work is completed by gas contractors, not PLTC. Electric work varies. If you have specific questions, contact Carla Julian on the Construction Hotline.

Sleaford Road

QUESTION: What is the timeline for the Sleaford Road work?

Response: Sleaford Road from East West Highway is a construction access point for the Georgetown Branch. Initial work will be the upgrading of pipes, installation of a drainage culvert, and the relocation of the utilities, sewer and electric lines, and the construction of the temporary sediment pond. This will be happening in the next 6 months. Ultimately the temporary sediment control pond will be replaced with a dry stormwater management pond, but this will not occur until construction is complete.

QUESTION: Are you going to remove the bamboo?

Response: Bamboo is very hard to get rid of. We are digging up the root balls, but unfortunately the bamboo is growing in the adjacent property.

East West Highway

QUESTION: Bethesda-Chevy Chase students use the sidewalk on East West Highway to get to school. There is no safe place to cross to the other side of the road at this location.

Response: This information is very helpful. This work will not start (and the sidewalk will not be closed) until 9 am, work will end by 3. However, we will look at our plans and schedule and accommodate the students. This kind of information is very helpful to us so we can address potential issues proactively.

QUESTION: Will the new sidewalks be accessible? The old ones were not, and a complaint was filed with SHA to have them fixed.

Response: Yes, the new sidewalks will be ADA compliant.

QUESTION: East West Highway, westbound into Bethesda, backs up significantly, continuing after 9 am.

Response: Thank you for this information, we will monitor the situation.

Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

QUESTION: What are the Erosion and Sediment Control plans? Will they be implemented throughout the Purple Line corridor?

Response: The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) requires that sediment and erosion not contaminate the waters of the US. This is a requirement everywhere on the project. To keep this from happening a variety of methods are used. Depending on the location, these include (but are not limited to):

- Asphalt berms
- Fabric at storm drains to trap the sediment - the fabric is regularly removed and the sediment disposed of properly
- Silt fences – these are short fences made of geotextiles that trap the sediment

Landscaping

QUESTION: How much space is there between the edge of the transitway and the property lines?

Response: It varies, but typically about 4 feet.

QUESTION: Will there be an effort to avoid planting invasive species?

Response: Absolutely, no invasive species will be planted – and we are trying to remove the existing invasive species.

QUESTION: How big will the trees been when planted?

Response: The shade trees will be 2" caliper. Within 5 years of planting they will be noticeably bigger. In the revegetation areas, the trees will be smaller, 1" caliper, approximately 5' tall.

QUESTION: How will the landscaping be maintained? What will happen if the plants die?

Response: The plant material will be under warranty. Once the warranty has expired, PLTP is required to maintain the plants for the rest of the 30-year contract. This would include replacing plants that die. Maintenance of landscaping is defined in the Technical Provisions:

“During the growing season turn shall be mowed such that height shall be maintained not to exceed 4 inches. Edge trimming shall be performed at lawn perimeters and tree wells; weeds shall be removed from plant saucers and mulched beds every three weeks. Trees and shrubs shall be pruned to maintain visibility of signs, protect trees from vehicle damage, and enhance pedestrian safety. Shrubs shall be pruned as required and trees pruned on a 5-year cycle. Dead, damaged, or ailing res, shrubs and ground covers shall be replaced with either the current planting season, or the following planting season when identified for replacement outside a planting season.

Vegetation management along the alignment shall be evaluated during an annual walk-through. Dead trees, hazard treed, overhanging branches, and invasive plants shall be removed immediately following the walk-through inspection. During the fall season of the year, fallen leaves shall be removed weekly or more often should the causey slippery conditions on platforms and walkways. Leaves shall be removed from gutters on station canopies to assure clogging is eliminated. Landscaping islands all be kept clear of trash, litter, and debris, and be groomed.

All arboricultural work shall be performed by an ISA Certified Arborist who possesses a Maryland Tree Expert license.”

QUESTION: Is mosquito mitigation including in the landscaping?

Response: No.

QUESTION: Are walls indicated on landscaping plans?

Response: Walls are indicated by dark black lines.

QUESTION: What plantings about the walls at Chevy Chase Lake?

Response: Small trees will be planted on the South side.

QUESTION: Is there a plan for street scape improvements along Connecticut Avenue?

Response: Street scape improvements along Connecticut Avenue are not included in the scope of the Purple Line project.

Fencing

QUESTION: How tall will the fences be, and what types of fences will be used?

Response: The type and size of fencing depends on the location and the purpose. There will be 6-foot fencing on either side of the tracks to keep people out of the transitway. This is an important safety feature. Elsewhere fencing will often be 4 feet tall, black ornamental iron (an iron picket fence). Often the fencing will be on the top of a 4-foot noise wall.

Residents with questions about the fencing or walls near their property should contact Carla Julian and she will prepare a short write up of what is planned.

Miscellaneous

QUESTION: What are the lighting plans along the trail? Will there be light pollution?

Response: Lighting will be at the stations and at the trail access points. Montgomery County does not plan on providing lighting along the trail itself. However, lighting in the area of the Purple Line along Connecticut Avenue station area will be provided as a part of the project.

QUESTION: Does a traction power substation make noise?

Response: The substations are air conditioned and make a low humming noise, just like your air conditioner at home. The structure housing the substation also will help mitigate any noise.

Question: How are walls treated? The public has heard that walls would be covered with plantings.

Response: Walls will have a finish that will vary by wall location and type. No plantings are planned to cover the walls. In general, noise walls will include wall treatments, whereas most retaining walls would not be treated with aesthetic wall finishes.