



## **Riverdale/New Carrollton CAT Meeting #10**

**Virtual Meeting – February 23, 2023**

### **Question & Responses**

Below is a summary of questions and responses discussed during the February 23, 2023, virtual Community Advisory Team (CAT) presentation.

**Question: When will the new maintenance of traffic (MOT) phases be implemented for the track work installation at Annapolis Road (MD 450) and Veterans Parkway (MD 410)?**

Response: We will implement new traffic patterns this fall. Track installation is scheduled to occur through the end of this year and into 2024.

**Question: When will you be reopening the access to the Glenridge Shopping Center from Veterans Parkway?**

Response: We just installed girders for the bridge over the light rail into the parking lot, which weighed a total of 300,000 pounds and were installed in one day. The newly constructed access bridge will open once construction is finished in that area, but we do not have an exact completion date at this time.

**Question: When will the construction finish in the Kenilworth area?**

Response: Project completion and the end of construction is scheduled for 2026.

**Question: When will the construction finish around Riverdale Park?**

Response: Project completion and the end of construction is scheduled for 2026.

**Question: When will the construction finish for the test track at Veterans Parkway and Annapolis Road? When will the test trains be active on Veterans Parkway?**

Response: We anticipate testing will begin in the summer of 2024 on the test track. The initial testing area will be from Annapolis Road (MD 450) to the Beacon Heights – East Pines Station.

**Question: When will the Kenilworth Road surface be fixed?**

Response: 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 Espanol) or email us at [outreach@purplelinemd.com](mailto:outreach@purplelinemd.com). Please provide an exact location and pictures if it is safe to do so.

**Question: What days/hours will the trains be tested? We are anticipating more noise. Are you planning on building sound barriers on Veterans Parkway between Annapolis Road and Riverdale Road?**

Response: You will likely be surprised just how quiet the light rail operation is. There will be no sound

barriers along Veterans Parkway. Hours of operation for testing will be determined closer to the testing period.

**Question: How much will it cost to ride the Purple Line?**

Response: Fares will be set closer to the beginning of operations. 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.

**Question: How can you all be behind schedule as we have had a very mild winter and nice weather?**

Response: Weather is only one factor that effects the schedule, and while it has not been a major factor, we have had a rainy winter season.

**Question: What is the timeline for completing placing track across Veterans Parkway and Ellin Road?**

Response: Track placement is anticipated to begin in early spring and be completed along Veterans Parkway by this summer.

**Question: Timeline work for at Ellin Road and Veterans Parkway?**

Response: Traffic was shifted to the southbound side of Veterans Parkway to install track across the roadway at Ellin Road Monday, March 20, 2023. Tracks will be placed across the northbound side from Ellin Road halfway across Veterans Parkway. About a month later, traffic will be shifted onto the northbound side of Veterans Parkway for crews to install track across the remainder of Veterans Parkway. About one month after the tracks are installed, traffic will be shifted to normal configuration with two lanes in each direction.

**Question: What pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure will be along the Kenilworth and Riverdale Road sections of the route? Will there be protected bike lanes or a mixed-use path off the road surface?**

Response: Pedestrian access along Kenilworth Avenue will be improved with the addition of sidewalks and bike lanes constructed between River Road and Riverdale Road in both directions. Riverdale Road will have sidewalk and bike lane improvements between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (MD 295) and Veterans Parkway (MD 410).

**Question: What will be the nominal transit time from one end of the Purple Line to the other?**

Response: The total travel time between Bethesda and New Carrollton will be about one hour.

**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 cost increase?**

Response: Our Concessionaire, Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP), will finance the additional project costs through a combination of debt and equity. PLTP, in turn, will then be repaid through increased availability payments made by the State during the 30-year operations and maintenance period.