



Long Branch CAT Meeting #4 – Questions and Responses
Oak View Elementary School
June 19, 2019

Question: Will there be art at the Plymouth Street entrance to the Manchester Place station?

Response: The artist selected by the Art-in-Transit committee chose to install the art he created for this station at the western portal and station platform area of the underground Manchester Place station. There will not be any Purple Line-funded artwork at the Plymouth Street entrance.

Question: Would the community be able to install community art at the Plymouth Street entrance?

Response: The community is welcome to spearhead an effort for the addition of art at the Plymouth Street entrance after the Purple Line construction has finished. The community may want to contact the Montgomery County Arts & Humanities Council or the Montgomery College School of Art + Design to see if the County would have an interest in helping to support such a project.

Question: I live directly across from the Plymouth Street elevator entrance to the Manchester Place Station, and I'm interested in finding out what it will look like. Are there pictures of this entrance online?

Response: The Purple Line does have an illustrative rendering of the station entrance at Plymouth Street, but the design of this facility has been modified and so the rendering is outdated. In response to your question, MDOT MTA will work on producing a drawing or sketch of this area, based on the latest design. Once this has been prepared, we will make it available to public through the project website.

Question: What are you doing to address the noise residents, particularly those on Arliss Street, are hearing in the morning?

Response: PLTC-owned vehicles must be equipped with white noise machines to eliminate the beeping noise when a vehicle is backing up. However, often subcontractors' vehicles are not equipped with the white noise machines, and for safety reasons, they will need to use beeping alarms when backing up. PLTC will investigate the source of the beeping noise that was mentioned. Please note, any truck deliveries either to the Purple Line project site, Giant, or other local businesses will have back up alarms. There is nothing the project can do to prohibit that.

Question: Will there be further excavation of Arliss Street? If so, what equipment will be used?

Response: Yes. There will be additional excavation in order to bring the Eastern Portal of the tunnel to grade at Arliss Street. PLTC plans on using excavators and muckers to accomplish this work but if conditions prove necessary, it is possible the hoe ram will need to be brought back onsite and used. If the hoe ram is needed, the community will be notified prior to its use and PLTC will abide by the time restrictions that were put into place during earlier excavation efforts.

Question: Can the pedestrian walkway that is part of the temporary entrance into the Takoma Park Shopping Center be widened?

Response: PLTC has been working with the property owner, Washington Real Estate Investment Trust (WREIT), to extend the walkway from the temporary entrance to the Giant storefront. Because neither PLTC nor MTA own the Takoma Park Shopping Center parking lot, a Right of Entry (ROE) agreement with WREIT was obtained to allow PLTC to install a barrier and thereby extend the pedestrian walkway.

With respect to the pedestrian walkway that currently exists in the temporary entrance, the pedestrian walkway was widened in early July to meet and exceed ADA requirements. ADA requires a minimum of 36 inches with a pinch point of 32 inches allowable. The widened pedestrian walkway currently is more than 6 feet in width for most of the walkway. It does have a pinch point at the Flower Avenue end of the walkway, but that portion of the walkway still meets ADA requirements at 32 inches.

Because of the placement of bollards, the asphalt that was laid had to be carried out by hand, not by a paving machine. MDOT MTA will have PLTP repave the surface using different equipment to provide a more consistent surface. After the pedestrian path is repaved, the bollards will be reinstalled along with additional bollards added to reduce the space between them.

Question: Can you do something about the overgrown weeds by the pedestrian walkway?

Response: The area along the south side of the walkway along the temporary entranceway from Flower Avenue was recently trimmed in response to community concerns. However, it should be noted that many of the weeds are on the adjacent property, which the Purple Line does not own. PLTC will continue to trim the weeds they can to ensure they do not obstruct the pedestrian walkway.

Question: Is it possible to install traffic-calming measures in the temporary entrance?

Response: Traffic-calming measures in the temporary entrance would likely require approval by WREIT and the Giant Food. This is unlikely to be approved and is currently not in PLTC's plans, since Giant trucks use this temporary entranceway.

Question: Would it be possible to modify the new left-turn light from Flower Avenue onto Piney Branch Road?

Response: MDOT SHA has submitted a service request for modification of this traffic light. MDOT SHA will conduct a study to ensure that modification of this light is justified.

Question: Could more signage be installed to better instruct the Giant Food delivery truck drivers?

Response: PLTC will work with the Giant Food manager to ensure delivery truck drivers are aware of the appropriate entrance and investigate the possibility of adding signage in the area as well.

Question: What can be done about obstruction of sidewalks during tree-cutting?

Response: PEPCO does not allow PLTC to cut down trees within a 10-foot radius of their poles; PEPCO subcontractors cut down trees within that radius of their poles. PLTC does not exercise control over PEPCO subcontractors. Recently, PLTC contacted PEPCO to request that their subcontractors not obstruct sidewalks during tree-cutting after a resident reported that a sidewalk was blocked. PEPCO halted work and corrected this issue.

Question: Will passengers be able to pay their fares using SmarTrip®?

Response: MDOT MTA plans to use the fare system in use by WMATA and the local bus systems at the time Purple Line service begins.

Question: Will the fare machines be ADA-compliant?

Response: Yes, MDOT MTA will ensure that the fareboxes will be ADA-compliant.

Question: What can residents expect in terms of noise?

Response: At the site of the tunnel, concrete will be placed using a pump and the rest of the work is manual labor and should not be particularly noisy. Most of the disruptive noise being produced is confined to delivery vehicles making their way to the site. As activities at the tunnel and surrounding areas change, PLTC will provide updates to the community surrounding noise activities.

Question: What is the schedule for track laying?

Response: PLTC anticipates track laying to begin sometime in fall 2020. PLTC will be sure to let residents know what track laying work entails at a CAT meeting before that work begins.

Question: The neighborhood has recently been subject to power outages on sunny days. What do utility shutdowns entail?

Response: The recent power outages the neighborhood experienced were related to a PEPCO issue that is unrelated to the Purple Line. If PLTC anticipates a disruption to service, they will work with the utility companies to ensure the utility companies send out notices to the public in line with the projects Technical Provision requirements. Every effort will be made to avoid service disruptions.

Question: When is work scheduled to take place on the Piney Branch Road bridge over the Long Branch?

Response: Work in this area is still being scheduled. For up-to-date information on construction activity in this area and elsewhere along the entire 16.2-mile alignment, residents can subscribe to receive notifications via text or email in English or Spanish: <https://www.purplelinemd.com/construction/sign-up-for-updates>

Question: Is Plymouth Street still on schedule for reopening in October 2020?

Response: Plymouth Street is currently scheduled to reopen in November 2020.