



**Silver Spring Community Advisory Group Meeting – Questions and Responses  
Sligo Creek Elementary  
November 6, 2017**

**Question: Will the multiple street and lane closures in this area (Bonifant west, Georgia/Bonifant intersection, Wayne/Fenton intersection) be staged so they don't occur simultaneously? This could cause gridlock locally.**

Response: Because the construction schedule is very tight, we cannot promise that they will not be concurrent. During construction the traffic conditions will need to be closely monitored and coordinated with the County to minimize impacts to the community.

**Question: Is PLTP coordinating with PEPCO and other utilities and will the work on Georgia Avenue and Bonifant occur at the same time?**

Response: PLTP is working with the utilities and the County to obtain the necessary permits and will work to ensure proper notifications are provided. Bonifant utility work is anticipated to begin in late Spring or Summer 2018.

**Question: Please provide updated plans on the website, and also the new graphics (particularly the Silver Spring Transit Center), and the graphics related to the Art-in-Transit. It would be helpful to have the graphics in a place that is easy to find on the website – rather than just in presentations from public meetings.**

Response: We are making some edits to the updated aerial mapping and plan to have that on the website soon.

**Question: As work occurs on the Sligo Creek Bridge will bridge access be maintained?**

Response: Yes, the bridge will remain open, but will be reduced to two lanes. The bridge will be rebuilt first on one side, and then the traffic shifted to the new portion, so the remaining piece can be rebuilt.

**Question: Will the construction in Area 3 be linear, i.e. will you work from one end to the other?**

Response: Work will occur in different sections simultaneously.

**Question: People were shocked when the trees came down at the Manchester Tunnel portal. Can you try to keep the trees standing as long as possible? The public needs to be prepared for the fact that the tree canopy will come down.**

Response: We agree, and we will not take trees down unless and until necessary. Taking them down too early can cause problems such as erosion. However, many of the trees need to come down for the relocation of the utility lines, and this utility work is the first step for the project.

**Question: When will the trees by Whole Foods come down?**

Response: Trees along Wayne will be coming down, as necessary, for the utility work starting in the spring of 2018.

**Question: Has there been discussion about how businesses will survive 18 months of construction?**

Response: PLTP will maintain access to the businesses, coordinate with the individual business about their deliveries, and provide "Open for Business" signage. The state does not have funds to reimburse or compensate businesses for loss of revenue.

**Question: Will access to businesses on Bonifant be maintained? What about deliveries, some businesses get multiple deliveries per day.**

Response: Access to businesses must be maintained, this is a requirement of the contract. PLTC will meet with each business in an effort to minimize impacts during construction to their business operations. For example, PLTC will want to understand when and how they receive deliveries; and will make every effort to accommodate the deliveries.

**Question: What will happen if utilities need to be shut down?**

Response: We do not anticipate any major or long term shutdowns. There may be some minor disruptions as the new utility connections are made. Utility customers will be notified at least 72 hours in advance of any temporary utility shutdown.

**Question: What other pedestrian safety enhancements have been designed for the unsignalized crossing at Springvale and Wayne Ave?**

Response: During construction, the construction zone area will be barricaded to prevent pedestrians from entering the construction site. The traffic on Wayne Avenue will likely be moving more slowly than today because of the reduction to two lanes.

**Question: Will the trees removed from Bonifant Street be replaced?**

Response: The project budget does not include a one to one replacement of trees that need to be removed.

**Question: Who should the public call about utility contractors?**

Response: If the utility work is for the Purple Line, please contact Carla Julian at the PLTC Construction Outreach Hotline at 240-424-5325.

**Question: Will all of the trees at the school be removed at the same time.**

Response: Yes, trees on school property will be removed at the same time.

**Question: Who is responsible for making sure the public notifications go out?**

Response: Both the MTA and PLTP Outreach teams work together on distribution of notifications.

**Question: When will blasting begin at the Plymouth Portal?**

Response: Blasting is scheduled to begin in Spring 2018.

**Comment: Some of the downtown Silver Spring parking garages are quite full, while others have lots of excess capacity. The lots near Bonifant Street should not be used by the PLTP construction workers, since they will be needed for Bonifant Street customers.**

Response: PLTC will coordinate with the County on which garages should be used.

**Comment: The public would like to see the Transportation Management Plans in advance of their implementation.**

Response: The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plans were submitted to Montgomery County and State Highway Administration (SHA) for their review and comment. If there are areas in Silver Spring where the community would like to have specific information regarding the MOT plans, please notify us at [outreach@purplelinemd.com](mailto:outreach@purplelinemd.com) so that we can provide that information.

**Comment: Please see community recommendations for creating a “Slow Zone” on Wayne Avenue**

Response: With the speed on Wayne Avenue being reduced to 25 mph and with pedestrian safety features included in the Purple Line design, we feel that Wayne Avenue will be a pedestrian safe environment as the Purple Line begins to operate along Wayne Avenue. Train performance for the Purple Line will not be given a higher priority over public safety.

**Comment: Please provide adequate trash and recycling containers on work sites.**

Response: A clean worksite is required. All employees are required to attend Environmental Protection Training and pass a test before setting foot on site (including subcontractors). Part of this training focuses on management of trash, housekeeping, and being a good neighbor while building the Purple Line. We spend a significant amount of time conveying information on the sensitivity of the adjacent neighborhoods and communities along the alignment and what is expected of each and every worker, every day. To provide a couple of on-site examples, there are trash cans at all staging/parking areas (where personal trash is most likely to be generated) and we do recycle to the extent possible. Also, all work areas are policed for trash and unnecessary debris at the end of each work day. If the public has a concern about this, please report it through the project’s Construction Outreach Hotline at 240-424-5325.

**Comment: MTA should consider best practices for business sustainment and provide a cost estimate so that elected officials consider options.**

Response: MTA has studied best practices for business sustainment employed in other light rail construction projects in other locations such as Minneapolis. PLTP and MTA consider business retention and sustainability very important and will work to minimize disruption to the many businesses along the Purple Line corridor. We estimate that there are approximately 600, mostly very small businesses along the light rail alignment that could be affected during construction. We will continue to engage with these businesses through various means of communication to keep them updated on construction activity planned in the area of their businesses. We will work with them to make sure deliveries can be made and provide signage to make sure customers know they remain open for business.