

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Veronica Battisti  
Office: 410-767-8748  
Cell: 410-598-4168  
[vbattisti@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:vbattisti@mdot.maryland.gov)

Ken Forsythe  
Office: 240-695-9196  
Cell: 443-854-6497  
[kforsythe@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:kforsythe@mdot.maryland.gov)

## MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION AND PURPLE LINE TRANSIT PARTNERS REACH AGREEMENT ON REVISED OPENING DATE FOR LIGHT RAIL LINE

*Purple Line Now Scheduled to Open in Spring 2027*

**Baltimore, MD (July 14, 2023)** - The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration and Purple Line Transit Partners today announce they are seeking Board of Public Works approval of a modification to the Purple Line Public-Private Partnership Agreement that extends the contractual deadline for achieving Revenue Service Availability to Spring 2027.

“Updating the schedule to reflect the challenges we are facing on the project is an important step in accountability and delivering a project that the region can be proud of,” said Maryland Transit Administrator Holly Arnold. “We are thankful to our partners and the community for their support and patience as we work to complete the Purple Line.”

This schedule change reflects delays in completion of utility relocation activities, the challenges and complexities of completing construction in a dense urban environment with significant pedestrian and vehicular traffic, the ongoing national workforce and supply chain issues, and the unique history of the Purple Line Light Rail Project. The project’s history includes two highly uncommon events: a set aside, and later reinstatement, of a key federal government environmental approval in 2016 and the replacement of the design-build contractor in 2022. The new design-build contractor faced unexpected conditions as some construction sites that sat dormant for nearly two years were reopened.

“We understand the impacts that prolonged construction creates for the residents and businesses along the Purple Line alignment and will continue to minimize disruptions where possible,” said Ray Biggs, II, Purple Line Project Director. “We are also focused on improving collaboration with stakeholders and third parties to maximize the ability to advance the rate of construction. For example, this summer, the University of Maryland, College Park, agreed to a closure of Campus Drive and Union Lane to help expedite construction on campus by enabling the contractor to complete construction quicker than if they were working around vehicular traffic.”

- more -

Work on the Purple Line continues to advance. The project is more than 50% complete, and construction is actively progressing along the entire alignment from New Carrollton to Bethesda at 60 active construction sites with approximately 700 workers. A significant amount of construction activity currently underway, including utility relocation work and replacement and upgrading of storm drain systems, has less of an impact visually than building a station but is inherently critical to the completion of the overall project.

More recognizable activities underway include several Purple Line stations currently under construction, including Bethesda, Connecticut Ave, Lyttonsville, Manchester Place, Silver Spring, Silver Spring Library, Campus Drive UMD, Riverdale Park – North, and Glenridge; bridge and retaining wall construction, including completion of Talbot Avenue in Silver Spring; light rail track being laid at several locations, including Ellin Road, the Plymouth Tunnel, and Campus Drive at the University of Maryland; and vertical excavation (blasting) of a 130-foot shaft at the Bethesda station that will connect future Purple Line riders to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metro’s Red Line. Additionally, work continues to prepare the Glenridge Operations and Maintenance Facility to start receiving light rail vehicles in early 2024.

The Maryland Transit Administration and Purple Line Transit Partners collaborated over the last several months to identify and mitigate delays where possible and to reach agreement on an equitable resolution of project delays. In addition to the extension of the project’s Revenue Service Availability deadline, the Maryland Transit Administration will provide net compensation to Purple Line Transit Partners of \$148 million, including an increase of \$205 million paid during the construction period, less a \$57 million reduction to payments made during the operations and maintenance period. This compensation amount reflects the additional cost of continuing construction activities during the extended period. The agreement is subject to approval by the Board of Public Works and is scheduled for review on July 19, 2023.

The Maryland Transit Administration and Purple Line Transit Partners meet weekly to review construction progress, anticipate potential schedule impacts, and develop mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of further delays. A project of this size and complexity will face many challenges that will require the project team to develop alternative solutions and strategies to mitigate cost and schedule impacts. Mitigation strategies may include rescheduling certain work to run concurrently rather than sequentially, resequencing work activities, extending work hours, adding additional crews, revising maintenance of traffic plans, and ordering materials in advance to ensure timely delivery.

“Together with the Maryland Transit Administration and our design-build contractor, Maryland Transit Solutions, we’re doing everything in our power to identify innovative solutions to fast-track progress,” said Purple Line Transit Partners Chief Executive Officer Doran Bosso. “Purple Line Transit Partners values the partnership we have with the Maryland Transit Administration to deliver this important project to the citizens of Maryland, and we strive to be good neighbors to the communities impacted by construction.”

Purple Line Transit Partners is developing a grant program to support community initiatives and to provide tangible resources to organizations in Prince George's and Montgomery counties that work to improve the lives of local residents. This community grant program will be in addition to grants available through a partnership with the Maryland Department of Commerce and Montgomery and Prince George's counties to local businesses negatively affected through revenue loss by the construction of the Purple Line.

The Purple Line is a critical infrastructure project that will expand transit opportunities between Prince George's and Montgomery counties, two of the most populated counties in the state. The 16.2-mile, 21-station light rail line will offer convenient east-west transit access for jobs, school, shopping and recreation and will provide connections across the region with links to five branches of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Metrorail, three MARC commuter rail lines, Amtrak and a host of regional and local bus services.

The project will relieve vehicle traffic in the National Capital region – one of the most congested areas of the country – and will spur economic growth through community revitalization and job creation. Project construction supports more than 6,000 jobs, with a goal of 26% for design services going to small and minority-owned businesses and 22% for construction going to small and minority-owned businesses. In addition, the Maryland Department of Transportation, Montgomery and Prince George's counties, and private developers are actively expanding opportunities for Marylanders through transit-oriented development and economic development activities along the Purple Line corridor.

The Maryland Transit Administration is one of the largest multi-modal transit systems in the United States, and operates local and commuter buses, Light Rail, Metro Subway, MARC Train service and a comprehensive Mobility paratransit system. The goal of the Maryland Transit Administration is to provide safe, efficient and reliable transit across Maryland with world-class customer service. To learn more, visit [mta.maryland.gov](http://mta.maryland.gov), check us out on Facebook at [facebook.com/mtamaryland](https://www.facebook.com/mtamaryland) and follow us on Twitter @[@mtamaryland](https://twitter.com/mtamaryland).

###