

**Town of Chevy Chase
Purple Line Mitigation Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2010**

Minutes by Andy Hill

MAG Members Present: John Burnes, Joan Rood, Andy Hill, Rich Brancato, Leslie Hill, David Salzman, Jacob Bardin, council member Pat Burda and MAG chair Mary Anne Hoffman

Town Resident(s): Debbie Feldman

The meeting began with an amendment to the previously published agenda. The chair explained that Joan Rood's proposed correspondence with the Maryland Transit Administration would not be discussed, since Joan planned to submit the letter to the Montgomery County Planning Board as a private citizen commenting on the Purple Line Functional Master Plan.

Recent PL Developments: Council member Pat Burda reported on recent developments related to the Purple Line:

1. Donahoe Construction plans to build an 8-story (approx. 150,000 square feet) commercial building adjacent to the Capital Crescent Trail by Pearl Street. The Town's Long-Range Planning Committee will monitor the project and alert MAG to any mitigation issues that need to be addressed.
2. The U.S. Department of Transportation is recommending changes to its formula for federal New Starts funding. Currently, the analysis is heavily weighted to the cost-per-rider benefit analysis. Changes would give added weight to development potential near transit lines. Based on his reading of the proposed changes, MAG member Rich Brancato feels the changed formula is unlikely to apply to the Purple Line project. Pat and Rich will look into that further.

MAG Process: MAG members then discussed the process the group will use to analyze potential Purple Line impacts, seek community input and recommend mitigation measures that Town should request from the State. To maximize the likelihood that the Town's mitigation recommendations are seriously considered and actually used, MAG will submit recommendations on various "decision" topics with the goal of submitting comments in the same time frame the State and County will be making decisions on those topics. MAG agreed to address the following decision topics in the order below: (the order may be adjusted due to County and State scheduling)

1. Train/Trail north-south alignment
2. Trail width
3. Lynn Street crossing
4. Tunnel and Trail design
5. Buffer issues: aesthetics, privacy, lighting, sound, vibration and safety
6. Station design
7. Elm Street access and Pearl Street crossing

As MAG deals with each of these topics, MAG members will assess potential impacts under that topic and recommend mitigation measures at a regular MAG meeting open to Town residents. Residents will be notified via postcard whenever a given topic will be discussed, and their comments will be considered at the meeting. MAG will then make a recommendation to the Town Council on what mitigation measures the Town should seek.

Decision Topic #1 -- North South alignment: Each MAG member was assigned an impact issue:

- Visual Impacts (Joan Rood and Andy Hill)
- Sound Impacts (David Salzman and Rich Brancato)
- Vibration Impacts (David Salzman and Rich Brancato)
- Impacts on Terrain (John Burnes)
- Water Runoff (David Salzman, Rich Brancato and John Burnes)
- Access to the Trail (Joan Rood and Andy Hill)
- Safety Issues (Leslie Hill and Jacob Bardin)
- Quality of Trail Experience (Leslie Hill and Jacob Bardin)

A postcard will be sent to residents a week before MAG discusses the alignment at its Feb. 4 meeting.

Next Steps with MTA: The group then discussed the next steps to pursue with the Maryland Transit Administration.

- Request a complete noise study
- Confirm with MTA that MAG's schedule for addressing different Purple Line topics is in line with the State's decision-making schedule
- Request updated drawings of tunnel design
- It was not decided when to ask the MTA to be present at another MAG meeting

Mary Anne reported that Jacob Bardin requested that all correspondence with MTA by Mary Anne and Pat be cc'd to the committee. The committee agreed.

New Business: Pat Burda will inquire whether single tracking between Connecticut Avenue and Bethesda is still a possibility.

Public Comments: Debbie Feldman asked for clarification on the new building that will be constructed adjacent to the trail by Pearl Street. She also thanked the committee for their hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.