

**Town of Chevy Chase  
Purple Line Mitigation Advisory Group Meeting  
June 3, 2010  
Minutes by John Burnes**

Group Members Present: Mary Anne Hoffman, Chair; Pat Burda, Council Liaison; Jacob Bardin, Rich Brancato, John Burnes, Joan Rood, and David Salzman. Absent: Andy Hill and Leslie Hill.

The Mitigation Advisory Group (“MAG”) met to discuss and to decide what action to take on issues raised during the May 6, 2010 walk along the Trail with Maryland Transit Administration (“MTA”), County transportation representatives, and County Council representatives. The following issues were discussed:

- 1. Saving Trees** – MAG agreed that the Town should request that MTA save as many trees as possible during construction and operation of the proposed transit/trail, and that every possible measure be taken to safeguard the trees on private property adjacent to the right of way identified by the Town arborist as significant trees ([see memo from Tolbert Feathers following these minutes](#)). MAG will urge MTA to follow construction methods to safeguard these trees, particularly their root structure during the construction phase of the project. MAG will also recommend that as many trees as possible along the right of way be retained.
- 2. Elm Street Ramp** – MAG discussed two issues concerning the Elm Street Ramp. First, with regard to providing for access to and from the Trail, MAG will recommend that as little of the park and playground be used as possible, and to avoid bisecting the playground. MAG will urge MTA to work with the County in redesigning the Elm Street playground so that the ramp will not adversely affect the usability and safety of the playground. Second, with respect to the portion of the ramp that will cross over the railway, MAG is concerned about the multiple use by pedestrians and bicyclists, and will recommend that MTA consider widening the ramp. MAG is also concerned about other ramp design issues, such as privacy for homeowners along the elevated portions approaching the Wisconsin Avenue tunnel, and looks forward to working with MTA on these and other issues.
- 3. Safety of Lynn Drive Crossing** – MAG discussed alternatives to the proposed at-grade crossing of the tracks at Lynn Drive (e.g., tunnel or elevated walkway), and agreed that a safely-engineered at-grade crossing is the preferred approach. The Lynn Drive crossing is an essential element of the Trail, and MAG appreciates MTA’s commitment to make the crossing as safe as possible. MTA is currently undertaking sight distance/reaction time studies to determine safe train speeds when approaching the crossing. MAG looks forward to working with MTA on crossing alert systems and other safety features.
- 4. State Easement or ROW at Lynn Drive Crossing** – MAG was pleased to hear a County representative suggest during the May 6 walk that it may be possible to seek an

easement on the north side of the Trail to provide access to and from the Lynn Street crossing. MAG supports obtaining the easement which could also provide emergency vehicle access.

- 5. ADA-Compliant Lynn Drive Access Path** –MAG requested and received sketches from MTA showing what an ADA-compliant design for the path would look like. MAG believes that the path should be ADA-compliant (ideally, as close to 6 feet wide as possible), but a number of issues need to be clarified before a final recommendation can be made. MAG representative Rich Brancato will brief the Town Council on the issue on June 9, 2010.

MAG next discussed other mitigation issues that will need to be addressed. MAG decided to discuss at its next meeting an issue raised by MTA during the May 6 Trail walk: MTA advised MAG that the current design of the transit/trail would not use all of the right of way on the south side nearest to the Town. Before the meeting, MAG will request further information from MTA on possible uses of this “buffer” zone.

MAG will also seek clarification from MTA on when sight distance studies at the Lynn Drive path will be completed and whether an ADA-compliant path would be included in MTA’s Purple Line project construction costs.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next regular monthly meeting will take place on July 1, 2010, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.