

**Town of Chevy Chase  
Long-Range Planning Committee**

**Minutes of March 27, 2007**

**7:30 p.m. –Town Hall**

David Lublin, notetaker

**Members Attending:** Pat Burda, Kathy Strom; Tina Coplan; Virginia Ceaser; Tamara Harris; David Lublin; Diane Mooney; John Navratil

**Members Absent:** Stephanie Brown

**Guest Speakers:** Mier Wolf, Pam Browning

**Call to Order:** Pat Burda convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting was to hear background with regard to the Purple Line in response to several recent developments with regard to the Purple Line:

- a. the letter from Michael Madden of the office of Planning at the Maryland Transit Administration to Mayor Barnes dated 3/7/07, stating that they “do not feel that it is worthwhile to further study the underground tunnel options along the Master Plan alignment for the proposed Purple Line” due to current cost estimates.
- b. the statement by Michael Madden at a public hearing in February that the rail line will be shifted from the Master Plan’s original citing of the rail on the north side of the Capital Crescent Trail now to the south side closer to the Town;
- c. and the proposed new ridership study and the delay of the Environmental Impact Study.

As to the Council’s earmarked \$250,000 for a “study” or consultants on these issues, Pat outlined that she believed the charge to the Committee is to consider what issues require further study and look into the best way to proceed and make recommendations to the Council.

Pat then asked guests Mier Wolf and Pam Browning to speak about the history of the trail, the effort to save the trail, and the evolution of discussions regarding the Purple Line.

Alternatives discussed to explore include: (1) Purple Line Loop along the Beltway, (2) Tunneling under the Trail, and (3) is there an alternative route such as to the Bethesda Naval Hospital? The group also discussed other costs and benefits of light-rail v. tunneling to be considered, including the benefit of having the Trail and the benefit to the Metro system of an underground route.

Other questions raised at the meeting included: Can we obtain copies of the Purple Line Conceptual Cost Estimate and the Ridership Study? What is the cost of the light-rail route? How accurate is the Purple Line Conceptual Cost Estimate? Does the cost estimate include the need to take light-rail over or under Connecticut Ave.? What would be impact of development stemming from the light-rail station on traffic on Connecticut Ave.? What are the legal steps needed to get the Purple Line project approved? What is the federal formula for approval and how does the open space and environmental impact of the trail factor into it, if at all? What is the rationale for placing the trains on the south side of the Trail?

Pat Burda brought up the need to develop (1) a list of documents, studies, etc. we need for background information; (2) a better sense of what the specific issues are and which we should focus upon; and (3) a strategy for moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.