



Town Council
Kathy Strom, *Mayor*
Robert Enelow, *Vice Mayor*
David Lublin, *Secretary*
Linna Barnes, *Treasurer*
Al Lang, *Community Liaison*

December 3, 2008

Letter to the Editor, Washington Post
Submitted by Kathy Strom, Mayor of the Town of Chevy Chase

As Mayor of the Town of Chevy Chase I am extremely disappointed at how many times the Town's position has been misrepresented on the Purple Line issue (see "East-West Divide," Dec. 1).

The Town fully supports mass transit connecting the east and west portions of the County and the State. The Town also believes we can protect a down-county green space enjoyed as a natural trail by over 10,000 people weekly, can use the Purple Line to help address a looming traffic nightmare at National Naval Medical Center with the BRAC relocation of Walter Reed, and can actually get the Purple Line built by choosing a much less expensive alternative. These facts do not make us Purple Line opponents.

Yes, we have hired transportation engineers to help us unravel the complex Purple Line Alternatives Analysis and DEIS document. And, yes, the engineering consultants have identified ways that the State's study has shortchanged the Jones Bridge Road bus rapid transit option, the only alternative under consideration that really makes sense today -- 40,000 more jobs served, \$1 billion saved, and over 15 acres of mature trees spared.

It is time our elected officials take a fresh, hard look at all options for the Purple Line and evaluate them based on today's problems and needs, including budgetary reality and future traffic changes at the Naval Medical Center. It is time to be creative and pragmatic and to show real leadership. It is time to endorse a better Purple Line.

Kathy Strom
Mayor