



PURPLE LINE NEWSLETTER

December 2024



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Kook Kai's Thai Noodles
- **People Behind the Purple Line:**
Julia Cornejo, MTS Construction Apprentice

From Ray Biggs, II Purple Line Senior Project Director, MTA



Ray Biggs, II, Senior Project Director, MTA

December is a great time for both reflection and to look forward to the New Year. As I look back on 2024 and think of our word of the year, **Momentum**, many examples come to mind, and I have shared a few below. Last January, we began the year with the project at 63.4% complete. As we end 2024, I am excited to announce the project is now more than 73% complete! If you have not seen

our latest progress video, including aerial footage, I hope you will check it out [here](#).

- In **May**, Purple Line teams joined the neighborhoods of Lyttonsville and North Woodside to celebrate the opening of the newly designed Talbot Avenue Bridge. Read more about this significant milestone and what it means to these communities on our website [here](#).
- Later in **May**, we were honored to host Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller for a tour of the entire Purple Line corridor. That same month also included progress setting structure girders on the Kenilworth flyover bridge, with dramatic photos of this work available on our Instagram page [@purplelinemd](#).

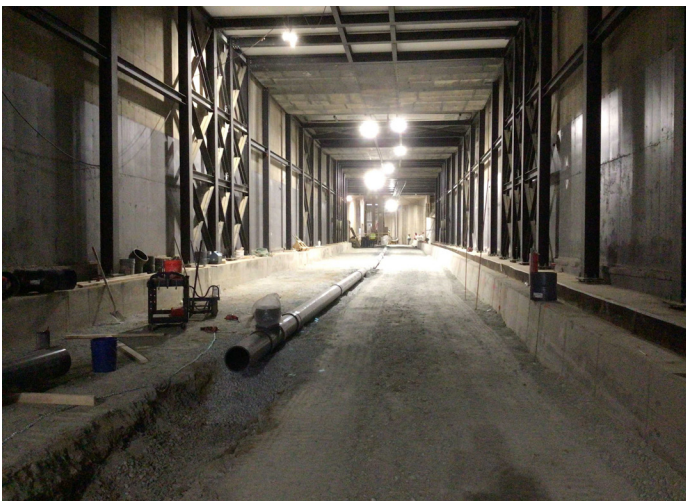
- In **July**, the project teams welcomed the first of seven light rail vehicles (LRVs) delivered to the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) this year in Glenridge. Watch the exciting journey and arrival of the first LRV on our YouTube channel [here](#).
- In **August**, our construction teams completed major construction on Campus Drive to fully open it to vehicular traffic in time for the University of Maryland (UMD) fall semester. Our Outreach Team coordinated with UMD to launch a bike, scooter and skateboard safety campaign to help students safely navigate the new rail track on campus.
- In **September**, Purple Line Transit Operators (PLTO) officially took over the Operations and Maintenance Facility. The OMF site is now a hub of major activity with catenary wire installation and other critical testing preparation.

As I look toward 2025, I am excited about continuing to move the project forward, including celebrating the live testing phase of the project. Until next month, please follow the Purple Line on Instagram, Facebook, X, and YouTube where you'll see the top 2024 Purple Line highlights posted throughout December. And don't forget, you can always connect with our Outreach Team, even during the holidays, by emailing outreach@purplelinemd.com or phone 443-451-3706, Español: 443-451-3705.

Wishing you a happy and safe holiday season,
Ray

Construction Updates:

Montgomery County:

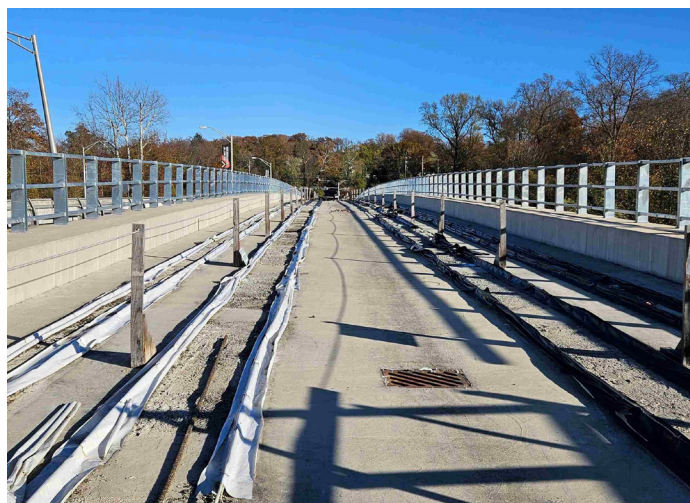
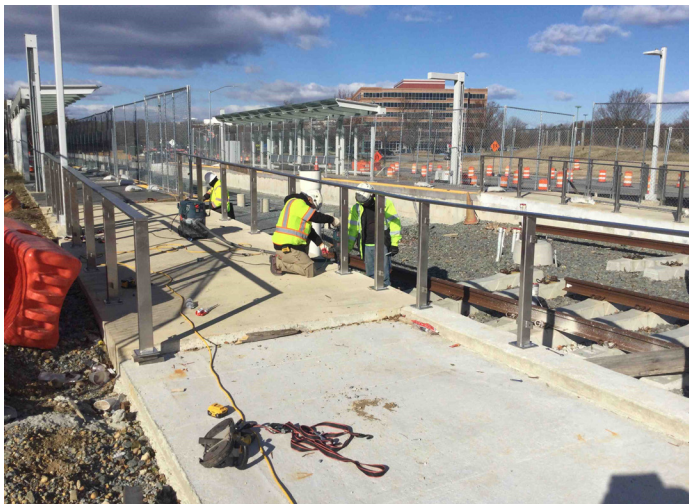


Clockwise from top left:

- 1. The station canopy at the Piney Branch Road Purple Line station near the intersection of University Boulevard and Piney Branch Road. The rainbow roof tiles are part of the Art In Transit installation for this station.*
- 2. Embedded track construction on Wayne Avenue near Sligo Creek Parkway.*
- 3. Stairs leading to the platform at the Connecticut Avenue Purple Line Station. Crews recently completed the permanent handrails on either side of the stairs.*
- 4. The Bethesda Enclosed Trainway just east of the Bethesda Purple Line Station. Crews are currently completing drainage work on this section of the alignment.*

Construction Updates:

Prince George's County:



Clockwise from top left:

1. Crews installing handrails on the ramp leading to the Riverdale Park North-UMD station.
2. A newly paved section of Kenilworth Avenue along the Purple Line alignment. Improvements on this section include wider sidewalks and improved pedestrian crossings.
3. Guardrails are installed along the light rail bridge over the Northeast Branch Anacostia River in Riverdale.
4. Embedded track construction along Ellin Road in New Carrollton. Riders will have access to Metro, MARC and Amtrak from the nearby New Carrollton Station.

Business Spotlight: Kook Kai's Thai Noodles

kookkaisthainoodles.com

Tuesday-Thursday: 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM
and 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Friday: 11:30 AM to 9:30 PM

Saturday: 12:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Sunday: 11:30 AM to 9:00 PM

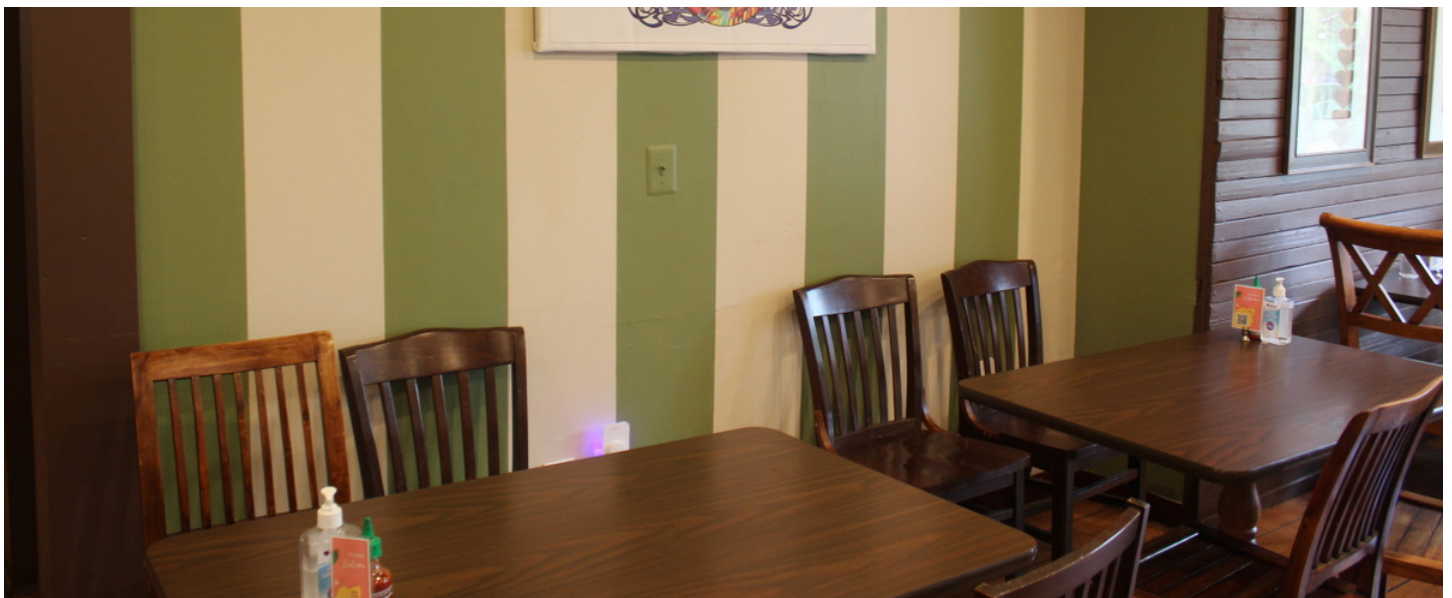
Kook Kai's Thai Noodles is an exciting addition to the Silver Spring dining scene. Officially opened under new ownership on January 1, 2024, the restaurant is the passion project of Riley Wirachai and his wife, Paulina Wirachai, who immigrated to the United States in 2023 to pursue new opportunities and a better life for their family.

Riley Wirachai discovered his love for cooking while living in Bangkok, Thailand. He trained for a year in culinary school, specializing in traditional Thai cuisine. His favorite dishes to prepare are Drunken Noodles and Massaman Curry, two of the most popular choices on Kook Kai's menu. True to Thai culinary traditions, Kook Kai offers customizable options, making any dish vegetarian upon request and allowing customers to choose their preferred spice level—from mild to authentic Thai spicy.

The Wirachais are enthusiastic supporters of the Purple Line. Riley Wirachai believes the project will make it more convenient for customers to visit Kook Kai via the Silver Spring Library Station, boosting foot traffic and making Silver Spring even more accessible to the community. With its cozy dine-in atmosphere, authentic flavors and commitment to customer preference, Kook Kai is already becoming a destination for Thai food lovers in Silver Spring.



Purple Line Business Engagement Officer Minh Diep and Riley Wirachai



People Behind the Purple Line: Julia Cornejo and the Purple Line Apprenticeship Program

Purple Line construction partner Maryland Transit Solutions (MTS) coordinated with [Laborers International Union of North America](#) and the [Carpenters Union](#) to create apprenticeships specifically for women in construction and transportation. The project guarantees full-time employment upon completion of the apprenticeship, increasing opportunities for women on the Purple Line project and in the construction field.

We spoke with one member of our apprenticeship program, Julia Cornejo, to see what inspires her to build her career in construction and the passion that drives her every day.

Purple Line: What drew you to the Purple Line apprenticeship program?

Julia Cornejo: I love construction and wanted to learn more about the industry to create better opportunities for myself in the future.

PL: What do you hope to learn from this program?

JC: I would like to learn more specific construction knowledge. One example is how to operate machinery and other specialties within the construction field.



PL: What inspired you to enter construction?

JC: My dad inspired me to start a career in construction because he's worked in construction his whole life. My brother and uncle also work in construction, so you could say it's a family tradition!

PL: What advice would you give to women looking to enter the construction field?

JC: I'd like women to not underestimate themselves; there is plenty of room for us in the construction field! We can do anything men can do and that includes construction.

Art In Transit

Did you know? Each of the Purple Line's 21 stations will include a public art installation as part of our Art in Transit program. Stay tuned for previews of each installation on our social media channels and on our website in 2025!



Thank you for subscribing to the Purple Line newsletter.

Stay connected through our social media channels and our website, purplelinemd.com.

