



PURPLE LINE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025



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



Ray Biggs, II, Senior Project Director, MTA

We are pleased to share significant progress on the Purple Line project this February. Here are the latest updates:

- The project is now more than 74% complete.
- 35% of track installation is finished.
- Several miles of sidewalks have been installed.
- 20 of 21 future stations are under construction, with 12 station canopies installed.

In January, we announced 2025 as the “Year of Transformation,” and you can already see changes happening. From new tracks in both counties to lighting and CCTV in Glenridge, and ventilation equipment in Bethesda, we’re making great strides!

February also brings two important observances: Transit Equity Day, honoring Rosa Parks on February 4th, and Black History Month. Let’s take this time to reflect, learn, and celebrate.

Plus, we have some exciting news about grants for community groups and businesses along the Purple Line: applications for the MDOT Small Business Grant program are open now. Details are below!

Stay connected with us on social media @purplelinemd. If you have any questions, send us an email at outreach@purplelinemd.com or give us a call at 443-451-3706 (English) or 443-451-3705 (Español).

Ray Biggs II

Construction Updates:

Montgomery County:



Clockwise from top left:

1. Preparation for track installation just east of the Bethesda enclosed trainway. The Capital Crescent Trail bridge, above, crosses the Purple Line tracks at Pearl Street.
2. Embedded track in place in the center of University Boulevard through the intersection of Carroll Avenue.
3. Jet fans are installed on the roof of the Plymouth Tunnel near the Manchester Place Station. The fans will work to ventilate the tunnel when Purple Line trains operate.
4. Embedded track construction on Bonifant Street in Silver Spring. Track installation on Bonifant Street is expected to be completed this spring.

Construction Updates:

Prince George's County:



Clockwise from top left:

1. The Glenridge Station nears completion with overhead catenary wires and station infrastructure, including lighting and CCTV system cameras.
2. The yard at the Glenridge Operations and Maintenance Facility. Crews are preparing the area to house an additional 20 light rail vehicles set to be delivered in the coming months.
3. Ballast track and sidewalk are completed along the south side of Riverdale Road near the Beacon Heights-East Pines Station.
4. A temporary pedestrian bridge over University Boulevard near West Park Drive. These bridges allow pedestrians to safely cross major roadways while Purple Line crews install track.

Business Spotlight: Pupuseria El Comalito

1167 University Boulevard E, Takoma Park, MD 20912
(301) 445-2225

pupuseriaelcomalito.com

Monday through Friday: 11:00 AM–9:00 PM

Saturday and Sunday: 8:30 AM–9:00 PM

Pupuseria El Comalito has been a cornerstone for Salvadoran cuisine in Takoma Park since it opened in 2009. While currently operated by Silvia Huezo and her husband, Salvador Lopez, its roots trace back to 2004 when it was founded by Silvia's parents, Silvia and Alvaro Huezo.

As bakers by trade in El Salvador, founders Silvia and Alvaro drew inspiration from their roots to create a menu filled with comforting homestyle dishes for the large Salvadorian Community in Takoma Park.

Pupusas, thick flatbreads stuffed with cheese, beans or vegetables, are the star of the menu, and customers agree: more than 250,000 are sold each year across all four locations in Takoma Park, Riverdale Park, Gaithersburg and Silver Spring. Other dishes from hearty soups to horchata, a sweet beverage made with milk and rice, round out the menu.

The family is committed to quality and tradition; the restaurant even also serves its own coffee, sourced directly from the family's farms in El Salvador.



For Silvia, running Pupuseria El Comalito is about more than just food—it's about community. She finds joy in being a voice for the community, advocating for local needs, and employing residents.

“My favorite aspect of it is seeing children in the community grow up and return to the restaurant, keeping the connection alive across generations,” Silvia said.

When she's not at the restaurant, Silvia runs Creative Youth in Bethesda, her own business focused on teaching youth creative skills in fashion design and sewing.

Silvia is excited about the Purple Line project, which she believes will significantly benefit the local community. By improving accessibility and facilitating transportation, she thinks the Purple Line will help residents explore parts of Maryland that were previously difficult to reach, especially for those without cars.

With its deep community ties, focus on authentic Salvadoran cuisine and commitment to quality, Pupuseria El Comalito continues to be a cherished destination for Takoma Park locals and visitors.

People Behind the Purple Line: Ray Mungro, Document Control Manager at Maryland Transit Solutions (MTS)



Ray has lived in the DC area his whole life and joined the Purple Line project in 2022. In his role leading the Document Control department for the project's construction partner, Maryland Transit Solutions (MTS), Ray manages a team of three: Ziad Abdul-Rahman, Shanta Proctor and Dierra Neal.

Overseeing document management for the Purple Line means ensuring that the correct version of a document is accessible to the right people at the right time, as well as managing the review, approval, distribution and archiving process.

What makes someone a good Document Controller?

This work requires great attention to detail. I think being curious and valuing a sense of order are necessary traits for Document Controllers. The details needed to move a document on to the correct departments are often buried deep within the document. The curious nature of a Document Controller will push them to quickly and efficiently gather this information.

Are there any mentors who helped you get to where you are today?

Nearly 20 years ago, my Document Control Manager inspired me to always be better at my job. Document Control methods and best practices back then were young and untested. My manager pushed our entire team to be inventive and create innovative ways to eventually make Document Control an actual profession with 'Best Practice Methodology.' I'll never forget her leadership!

What will the Purple Line mean to communities along the alignment?

As a lifelong resident of the DMV, I truly believe that the completed Purple Line will improve transportation for all who ride it. Living in Bethesda and working in New Carrollton, vice versa and anywhere in between can be a travel nightmare. With the Purple Line, riders in these communities will have one line and no transfers connecting them east to west within these busy areas. Minimizing travel times and less cars on the roads—I can't wait to ride!

Purple Line Small Business Grants

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is now accepting grant applications from small businesses impacted by construction along the Purple Line alignment.

Program activities and funding may also include marketing funding for businesses along the corridor and other business support. Grant funds must be used for business-related expenses, including payroll

or healthcare benefits, contract labor, working capital, business rent or mortgage payments for business property, supplier payments, machinery and equipment, critical operating expenses, and utility payments for business locations.

Find more details, including full eligibility requirements and an application, on the [Business Grant](#) page of the Purple Line website.

Purple Line Transit Partners Community Grants

Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP) is proud to announce the selection of eight outstanding community groups to receive **Beyond the Rails** grants.

The new grantees are:

Organization	Program
New Hampshire Estates and Oak View Elementary School PTA	Supporting Long Branch Students
Riverdale Heights, Riverdale Hills, Crestwood Community Association	Roanoke Avenue Safety Project
Silver Spring United Methodist Church	Arletta's Pantry Food Ministry
Silver Spring International Middle School	Improving Students' Health and Wellness
African Communities, Inc.	Community Clean Up
City of New Carrollton	Food Forest
Crossroads Community Food Network	Fresh Checks for Fresh Produce
Rolling Terrace Elementary School PTA	Afterschool Tutoring to Address Education Equity

Twice a year, PLTP awards Beyond the Rails community grants to groups doing good work in communities near the Purple Line corridor. PLTP encourages community groups to apply by completing the **two-page application**. The deadline for the next round of grants is May 30, 2025 (applications are accepted on a rolling basis).

Beyond the Rails community grants are valued between \$1,000 and \$3,000. Successful applications are those that demonstrate how grant funding will benefit communities adjacent to the Purple Line corridor.

As a long-time member of the community itself, PLTP sponsors the Beyond the Rails community grant program as a way of giving back to the community. In partnership with the Maryland Transit Administration, PLTP is building the Purple Line and will operate the service for 30 years after opening.

If you have questions about the Beyond the Rails grant program or how to complete the application, please contact grants@purplelinepartners.com.



Members of African Communities Inc. with Purple Line Transit Partners Communications Director John Undeland

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