



PURPLE LINE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



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



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Hello, and welcome to spring! In case you missed our recent announcement, we celebrated another significant Purple Line milestone: dynamic testing of the light rail vehicles (LRVs)! The testing phase marks a major step forward in the Purple Line project as we transform from heavy construction to a future transit option for Prince George's County, Montgomery County and beyond. Working closely with our partners at Purple Line Transit Partners, Maryland Transit Solutions and Purple Line Transit Operators, personnel are performing a series of tests along the one-mile test track at the Operations and Maintenance Facility, parallel to Veteran's Parkway.

April is Earth Month—a great opportunity to highlight the Purple Line's environmental benefits and its contribution to a more sustainable future. The Purple Line not only provides an alternative to cars but also enhances micromobility across the region. The project is expanding and upgrading bike and walking trails, and adding miles of brand-new sidewalks, promoting even more connected communities. We joined Earth Day cleanup

efforts near the alignment, and you can view one of the outings, "Sweep the Creek" at Sligo Creek, on our social media @purplelinemd.

The spring Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings begin Tuesday, April 22. The full schedule is available on our website's [Public Meetings and Events page](#). Each CAT meeting provides an opportunity to see the latest progress on the Purple Line, learn about upcoming work, and hear from our full project leadership team, available to answer questions from community members specific to their neighborhoods. Attendees will be the first to see our latest progress video, including exciting aerial footage and new video of moving light rail vehicles.

Thank you for your engagement as we work to complete the Purple Line and move into service. Please connect with us through our dedicated Outreach Team at outreach@purplelinemd.com or call us at 443-451-3706 or 443-451-3705 (Spanish). You can also view the latest Purple Line construction updates by checking our website at [purplelinemd.com](#).

Ray Biggs, II

Construction Updates:

Montgomery County:



Clockwise from top left:

1. Embedded track on Wayne Avenue leading to the new bridge over Sligo Creek. Crews continue work on the north side of the bridge including foundations and stream restoration.
2. The westbound platform and canopy at the Connecticut Avenue Station in Chevy Chase. The colorful canopy glass is part of the Art in Transit installment for this station.
3. The Lyttonsville Operations and Maintenance Facility is taking shape alongside Brookville Road west of Silver Spring. Once complete, this building will serve as a storage yard for LRVs and a changeover location for Purple Line operators.
4. The elevator shaft and stairs at the Connecticut Avenue Station. The elevated station crosses Connecticut Avenue alongside the Capital Crescent Trail.

Construction Updates:

Prince George's County:



Clockwise from top left:

1. A Purple Line LRV on the test track parallel to Veterans Parkway. LRV testing includes braking and propulsion, communication systems, signals and more.
2. Riggs Road opened to through traffic in late March following a right turn only restriction for track installation. Traffic now crosses embedded track in the center of University Boulevard.
3. Direct fixation track, a fastening system where rails are directly secured to a concrete or steel structure, is installed on the bridge over the Northeast Branch Anacostia River in Riverdale.
4. Both sets of embedded track are in place along Campus Drive near the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute.

Business Spotlight: Café Via Roma

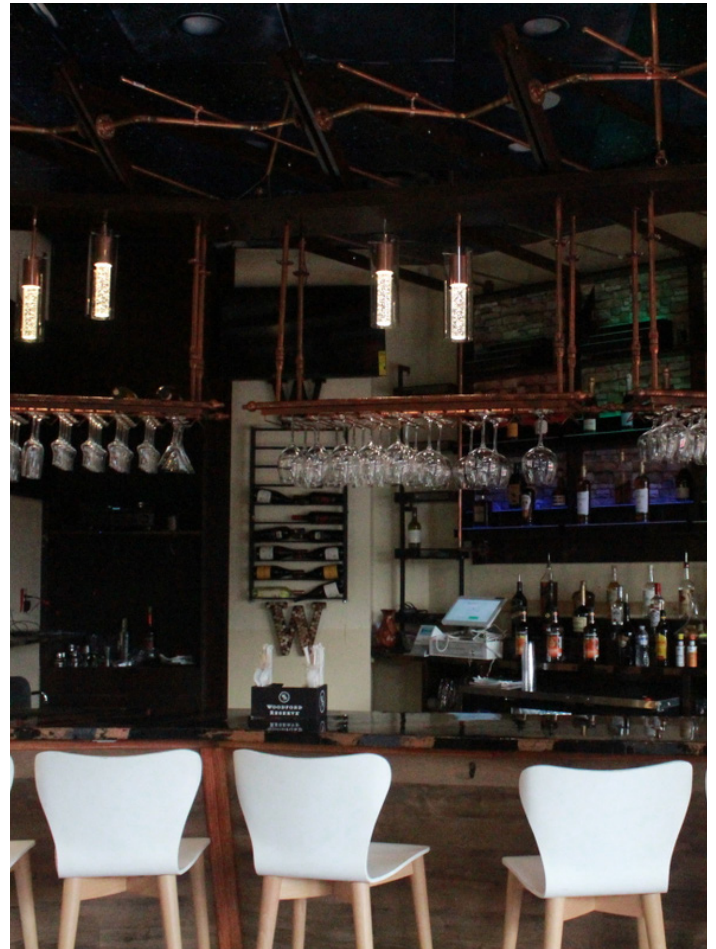
8911 Bonifant, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tuesday-Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Closed Monday.
240-531-2189
Cafeviaroma.com

Café Via Roma brings an Italian dining experience to downtown Silver Spring. Eden Negussie and her brother Samuel Negussie opened the Café in September 2024, and it's already picking up steam as a Silver Spring favorite. Known for its signature Tiramisu Latte, freshly baked cakes and pastries, the menu also includes a variety of Italian sandwiches and entrées for lunch and dinner service. A full menu of beer, wine and liquor service complements their food offerings.



The brother-sister duo began transforming the space on Bonifant Street in April 2024, and updated the interior to include a bar, a café counter complete with espresso equipment and a dining area. Eden Negussie says the Café represents the culmination of her lifelong dream to run her own business and credits her years of bartending experience in creating diverse offerings for the Café's menu.

Eden shared her excitement about the Purple Line's completion saying, "We see it as a catalyst for increased foot traffic and downtown Silver Spring revitalization." Eden and Samuel believe the project will make the area more accessible, attracting new visitors, adding to the exciting, diverse local community. The Café is located a short walk from the Purple Line's Silver Spring Library Station.



People Behind the Purple Line: Luis Rivera General Manager, Purple Line Transit Operators



As a public-private partnership (P3) the Purple Line consists of Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP), Maryland Transit Solutions (MTS) and Purple Line Transit Operators (PLTO).

PLTO General Manager Luis Rivera's experience includes

infrastructure engineering, operational leadership and maintenance planning within transportation and railway environments. Luis has a bachelor's degree in engineering with focused studies on power. Luis shared that a majority of his career includes Design-Build-Operate-Maintain project advancement.

Purple Line: Luis, can you describe PLTO's unique role within the Purple Line project, including some examples of day-to-day activity at the Operations and Maintenance Facility now that the light rail vehicles are undergoing dynamic testing?

Luis Rivera: Each day is fast-moving and engaging, giving me the unique opportunity to witness progress firsthand, from construction through revenue service availability. We are building a complex operating company, developing management systems, recruiting personnel with specialized skill sets and supporting our construction partners while they commission this advanced technology transit system.



PL: What are some details specific to the testing phase that help readers understand why these activities must continue through 2027?

LR: The Purple Line consists of multiple systems and components distributed across various locations, each requiring comprehensive testing. The extensive testing phases ensure seamless integration, reliability and compliance with critical systems, including safety and regulatory requirements. In addition to the vehicle testing, a rigorous operator training and certification process is conducted, a critical foundation to building a culture of safety and operational excellence.

PL: Looking forward to evolving testing phases later this year through 2027, can you share some public safety reminders for the Purple Line?

LR: Situational awareness is so important and that means always anticipating train movements. When driving or walking near the Purple Line alignment, keep in mind that these light rail vehicles operate relevantly quiet. Drivers and pedestrians should obey all signs and all signals. One of the most important reminders about sharing the road with light rail vehicles includes using extra caution when driving or turning across train tracks, especially at grade crossings. Illegal turns across rail tracks represent a serious safety hazard.

PL: Once the Purple line is open, describe the responsibility of PLTO across the 16-mile alignment.

LR: Purple Line Transit Operators (PLTO) is responsible for all customer-facing aspects of Purple Line service. This includes customer service, schedule reliability, cleanliness of trains and stations as well as training and managing all operating employees. Once the Purple Line opens, PLTO will operate and maintain the infrastructure as well as the equipment; maintaining the light rail vehicles, both Operations and Maintenance Facilities (Glenridge and Lyttonsville) and substations, all 21 stations and essential communications systems. This encompasses maintaining the overhead catenary systems, tracks, signals, communications and more. All of us at PLTO look forward to welcoming Purple Line riders!

Community Advisory Team Meetings Starting Soon!



Join your area's Community Advisory Team meeting for essential project updates. Meeting attendees can ask the team questions about ongoing and upcoming construction in their area. Meeting links can be found on our website's [Public Meetings & Events page](#).

- Tuesday, April 22: College Park (PG)
- Thursday, April 24: Long Branch (MC)
- Tuesday, April 29: University Boulevard (PG)
- Wednesday, April 30: Lyttonsville/Woodside (MC)
- Thursday, May 1: Riverdale Park/New Carrollton (PG)
- Tuesday, May 6: Silver Spring (MC)
- Thursday, May 8: Bethesda/Chevy Chase (MC)

Thank you for subscribing to the Purple Line newsletter.

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

