



# PURPLE LINE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



- Construction Updates
- Business Spotlight: Mon Ami Gabi
- People Behind the Purple Line: Outreach and Business Engagement Teams

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



Ray Biggs, II, Senior Project Director, MTA

As October brings cooler temperatures, shorter days and leaves changing colors, our crews continue to advance critical work across the alignment. Each week brings visible progress - from track installation and station construction to roadway and sidewalk completion. Crews have installed hundreds of Overhead Catenary System (OCS) poles, the key structural

component for the 90 miles of OCS wires required across the alignment to power our Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs).

On the Purple Line's YouTube channel, be sure to check out our new [Fall Progress Video!](#) This video features new aerial footage across the 16-mile alignment, where you can truly see the transformation made during the

last nine months. You'll also get a closer look at our dynamic testing process taking place from Glenridge to New Carrollton.

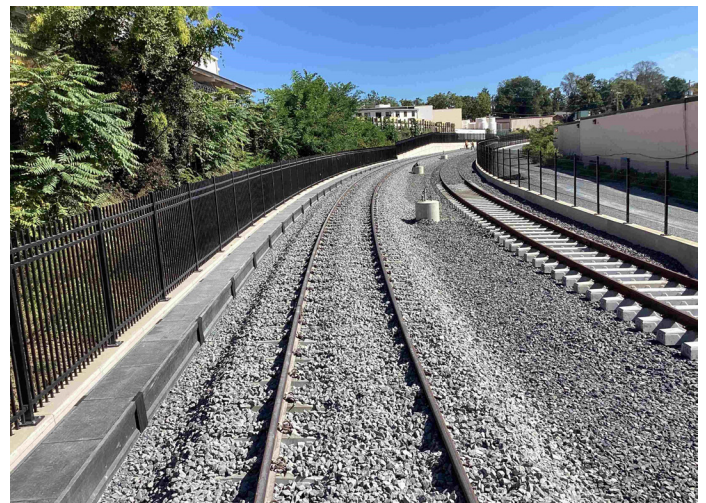
If you follow us on social media, you know we regularly highlight small businesses near the alignment in both Prince George's and Montgomery counties. One of the unique benefits of a light rail system is the ease of access to hundreds of local establishments just a short walk from each station. Once the Purple Line is operational, riders will be able to step off the train and easily walk to their favorite restaurant, store or other business.

Thank you for your attendance, engagement and questions during our fall series of Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings during the last three weeks. If you missed the meeting for your neighborhood, the recordings are available on our [YouTube channel](#) and you can view the presentations, as well as transcripts of the Q&A session on our [Meetings and Events page](#).

Thanks for reading,  
Ray Biggs II

# Construction Updates:

## Montgomery County:



*Clockwise from top left:*

- 1. The new entrance to the Long Branch Community Center on Piney Branch Road is now open. The driveway connects directly to a signalized intersection at Barron Street.*
- 2. Rail installation in progress leading up to the Silver Spring Station on the top level of the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit Center. The future embedded track here will cross the Bonifant Street and Ramsey Avenue intersection.*
- 3. Ballasted track is installed just east of Stewart Avenue in Lyttonsville. Crews will soon install Overhead Catenary System (OCS) poles and wires on this section.*
- 4. The Piney Branch Road Station canopy and windscreen cast colorful hues over the station platform. The Art in Transit installation is by the Baltimore-based artist team of Jessie Unterhalter and Katey Truhn.*

# Construction Updates:

## Prince George's County:



Clockwise from top left:

1. The westbound platform of the Baltimore Avenue-UMD Station, complete with embedded track and canopy structure.
2. A track interlocking in the center of Campus Drive near Adelphi Road. Interlockings are special track sections that allow trains to switch between the two tracks.
3. The intersection of 66th Avenue and Riverdale Road in Riverdale. Crews have installed embedded track and placed concrete to prepare the finalized intersection.
4. The New Carrollton Station alongside Ellin Road. This center platform station serves as the eastern end of the alignment and offers a connection to WMATA, MARC and Amtrak trains, as well as numerous local bus lines.

# Business Spotlight: Mon Ami Gabi

7239 Woodmont Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814

[monamigabi.com/bethesda](http://monamigabi.com/bethesda)

Monday – Thursday 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Friday 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Weekend Brunch 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Happy Hour Monday – Friday 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Photos courtesy Mon Ami Gabi, David Borzkowski.



To meet growing demand for private events, the restaurant also added a dedicated private bar, creating a flexible and inviting environment for birthdays, retirement parties, and community celebrations.

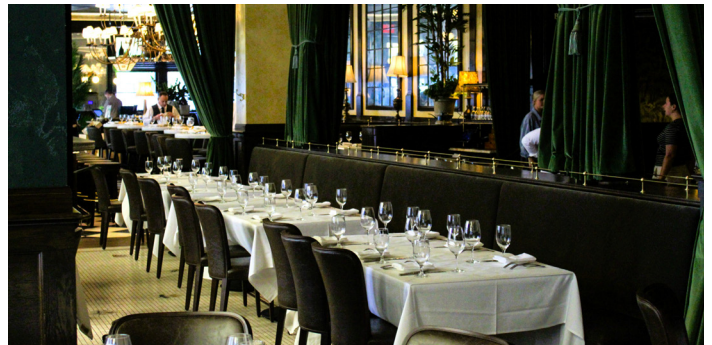
In the bustling heart of Bethesda Row, where charm and culture converge, Mon Ami Gabi has stood the test of time. This beloved French bistro has been a local favorite since it opened in 2002. Mon Ami Gabi has brought the elegance and comfort of classic French dining right in the heart of Maryland for more than two decades.



Under the seasoned leadership of Executive Chef Andrew Fleischauer, who has led the kitchen since 2007, the menu at Mon Ami Gabi offers a masterful blend of traditional French bistro staples and inventive modern updates. Signature dishes like Steak Frites, Onion Soup au Gratin, and Crème Brûlée share the spotlight with fresh, seasonal creations that reflect the chef's passion for quality and innovation.



General Manager Adam Murphy, a restaurant industry veteran with more than 30 years of experience, shared with us, "The community here is phenomenal. Their support is why we're still thriving—and why we just signed a new 20-year lease."



Bethesda's diverse population, close proximity to Washington, DC, and reputation as a cultural hub have made it the perfect home for Mon Ami Gabi. Just steps away from the Purple Line Bethesda Station, a Metro Red Line connection. From weekday business lunches to weekend brunches with friends, this bistro remains a favorite destination for all occasions.

The team at Mon Ami Gabi agrees that the completion of the Purple Line will provide even easier access for both staff and guests traveling to and from Prince George's County and Montgomery County. The Bethesda Station, visible directly from Mon Ami Gabi's patio, promises to make the restaurant more accessible than ever before cementing its central role in the Bethesda Row experience.

# People Behind the Purple Line: Outreach and Business Engagement Teams



*Purple Line Outreach and Business Engagement team members, L-R: Stephanie, Chris, Lesli, Jaycee, Hanna and Marlene*

Purple Line Outreach staff includes specialists from across the partnership, including Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP), Maryland Transit Solutions (MTS) and Purple Line Transit Operators (PLTO). These professionals are dedicated to community outreach and business engagement.

Team members respond to the Outreach Hotline (English and Spanish) and email and engage in-person with the public at dozens of community events throughout the year. Outreach and Business Engagement work closely with construction teams, keeping the public and businesses informed about project-related impacts in their neighborhoods. Each spring and fall, the team is also busy managing Purple Line Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings. The teams shared that active listening, persistence and encouragement are the keys to positively influencing outcomes for stakeholders, businesses and residents across the Purple Line's 16-mile alignment. Some of these team members share below about how their work is making a difference as the Purple Line project progresses.

## **Purple Line: How did a past role prepare you for Purple Line Outreach?**

Chris, Outreach Manager: In past emergency management roles, I learned the importance of communicating with empathy, while also being transparent, honest and accountable. When community members contact us, it's because something tangible is affecting them.

Stephanie, Prince George's County Outreach: Working in customer service—from restaurants to grocery stores to administrative work—developing connections with people is something I've always enjoyed. My past customer service work also helped me learn to seek creative solutions.

Hanna, Montgomery County Outreach: I'm grateful for my international experience working with a public health project, as it taught me valuable community engagement and listening skills.

Marlene, Prince George's County Business Engagement: Listening closely to concerns, empathizing and tailoring solutions to meet unique needs—these are ways we've found to help build and maintain trust.

Jaycee, Montgomery County Business Engagement: Follow-ups are also essential. Working at management levels in sales has definitely helped me to advocate for small businesses.

## **PL: It's CAT season! What is unique about Purple Line communities and our Community Advisory Teams?**

Hanna: It's inspiring to see how pride in their community drives CAT members to be such active and engaged voices; they remind me that the Purple Line isn't just about transit, it's about people and connection.

Marlene: As a long-time team member, my day-to-day interactions are primarily with business owners. I look forward to CAT meetings because I consistently gain valuable insights into the broader community's priorities and perspectives.

## **PL: Share a standout Purple Line moment!**

Stephanie: I've been impressed with the environmentally conscious design and execution of trail restoration across the project. Infrastructure affects the environment, and it is refreshing that Purple Line Design and Construction teams consider the different habitat mating seasons, for example, to ensure that crews do not work during times that could negatively impact those habitats.

Marlene: A project standout for me is the detailed process for cleaning, maintaining, and providing long-term care for the Sligo Creek ecosystem. The design and reconstruction of the bridge have helped this creek area thrive, creating a better pathway for fish and other amphibians to travel in the stream.

Lesli, Business Relationship Manager: It is exciting to see business owners along the alignment light up talking with us about their business. It is inspiring to learn more about their personal stories and how they support their local communities.

Connect with the Outreach team at [outreach@purplelinemd.com](mailto:outreach@purplelinemd.com) or call 443-451-3706, 443-451-3705 (Español). You can reach the Business Engagement team at [business@purplelinemd.com](mailto:business@purplelinemd.com). Missed the CAT meeting for your neighborhood? You can find the presentations on our website at [Public Meetings & Events | Purple Line MD](#).

# Small Business Grant Program: Round 3 application period is now OPEN!

The Purple Line Small Business Grant Program, operated by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), opened its third round of award applications on October 6, with a submission deadline of November 7. More information, including a link to the application, is available on our website [here](#). Our Business Engagement team is always happy to help and can be reached at [business@purplelinemd.com](mailto:business@purplelinemd.com).

---



## Milestone Moment: 100% of rail installed in Prince George's County!

See rail installation progress across the Purple Line alignment featured in our Fall Progress Video on YouTube [here](#).

---

**Thank you for subscribing to the Purple Line newsletter.**

Stay connected through our social media channels and our website, [purplelinemd.com](http://purplelinemd.com).

