



PURPLE LINE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



- Construction Updates
- Business Spotlight: Roxana Floral
- Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP) Beyond the Rails Community Grants

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



Photo caption: From left to right: Hugo Fontirroig, Project Executive, Maryland Transit Solutions (MTS), Ray Biggs II, Senior Project Director, MTA, Doran Bosso, CEO, Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP), Mike Ollinger, Director of Operations, MTA and Luis Rivera, General Manager, Purple Line Transit Operations (PLTO)

April is Earth Month, the perfect time to focus on some of the ways MTA Purple Line will foster sustainable transit across Prince George's and Montgomery counties. By providing a reliable alternative to driving, the Purple Line will take thousands of cars off the roads —reducing congestion, lowering fuel consumption and significantly reducing carbon emissions.

In other project environmental news, the Purple Line's Glenridge Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) recently earned LEED Silver certification from the [U.S. Green Building Council](#). The

designation recognizes leadership in energy and environmental design, meeting high standards for water conservation, energy efficiency and environmental stewardship. Among other environmental highlights, the OMF's light rail vehicle (LRV) wash bay uses a specially designed reclaimed water system that recycles water, reducing overall facility consumption.

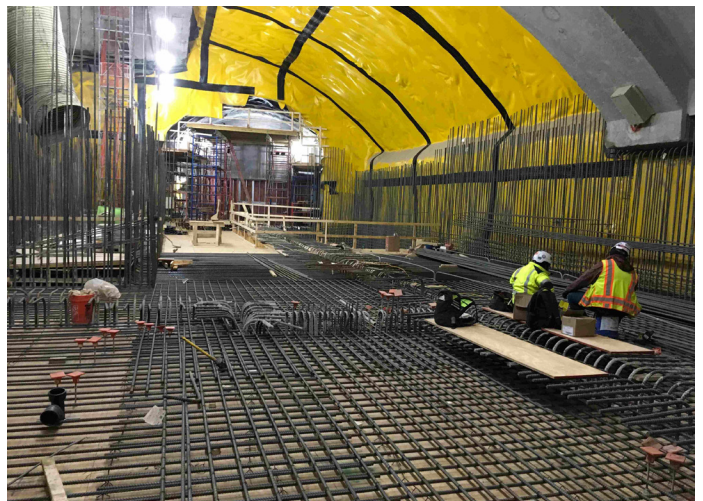
Spring is always a season of progress for the Purple Line, and this year is no different. As we continue our "Year of Motion," LRVs began live wire testing in College Park, across the University of Maryland (UMD) campus. Successful tests are the culmination of intensive coordination among project teams, Prince George's County, local law enforcement and the university. Thank you to all our stakeholders in the area for helping make this a success. If you missed it, we have posted a video of testing across the UMD campus on our YouTube channel, and you can [view it here](#). So far, live-wire testing has covered nearly five miles of the 16-mile alignment.

April also marks the spring series of Community Advisory Team (CAT) Meetings, which kicked off on April 14. If you've already joined one of these neighborhood-focused meetings, thank you! We've been impressed by your engagement and thoughtful questions about the exciting future of the Purple Line. If you missed your neighborhood's meeting, you can catch up on our YouTube channel, where you will find meeting recordings. For a complete schedule and links to our current meetings and past meeting materials, visit our [Public Meetings & Events Page](#).

Let's keep Purple Line progress in motion,
Ray Biggs II

Construction Updates:

Montgomery County:



Clockwise from top left:

1. The Jones Mill Road bridge over Purple Line tracks and the Capital Crescent Trail. The trail will be accessible via a ramp from the Jones Mill Road sidewalk.
2. The Lyttonsville Maintenance Yard alongside Brookville Road. Once operational, the facility will store a small part of the light rail vehicle fleet, allowing for seamless operations on the west side of the alignment.
3. At the Bethesda station, rebar work is ongoing on the underground mezzanine level, 150 feet below downtown Bethesda.
4. The Manchester Place Station along Wayne Avenue in Silver Spring. The future station is accessible from Wayne Avenue, shown here, and Plymouth Street from above.

Construction Updates:

Prince George's County:



Clockwise from top left:

1. A Purple Line LRV at the Adelphi Road-UMGC-UMD Station, shown during peak bloom for capital region cherry blossoms.
2. An LRV crossing onto the University of Maryland campus, with the university's "M Circle" in the foreground.
3. The Riverdale Park-Kenilworth Station, complete with elevators and stairs at both ends of the platform.
4. Purple Line tracks and the Overhead Catenary System (OCS) are installed on Presidential Drive on the University of Maryland campus.

Business Spotlight: Roxana Floral

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301-768-8576

roxanasflowers.com

IG: @Roxanasfloral • TikTok: @Roxanasfloral

Monday Through Friday: 8:30 a.m.- 6:30 p.m. • Saturday: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. • Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Steps away from: Purple Line Long Branch Station



Roxana Floral opened in 2016 on Flower Avenue in Long Branch, a newly designated Main Street Maryland community, awarded for the street's vibrant, walkable and business-friendly district. The shop's mother and son owner-operators say community interactions are the most rewarding part of doing business in the area; meeting new people and bringing things (like flowers) to life.



Marvin Vásquez co-founded and operates Roxana Floral with his mother, Roxana Vásquez. "My mom is an immigrant from El Salvador, who learned English through entrepreneurship, so when she was finally able to get her own business, she wanted the name to reflect her journey," said Marvin. Roxana Vásquez shared, "I started the business using traditional floral arrangement methods and am proud of my son, Marvin, modernizing Roxana Floral through social media and new marketing promotions to increase awareness."



Marvin and Roxana say it is a privilege to serve Marylanders through their small business and that the Purple Line "will bring unprecedented opportunities." Marvin shared his excitement about the upcoming Long Branch Festival, taking place at nearby Flower Avenue Park in September. Roxana Floral is preparing a new flower cart for the annual community event. The shop plans special arrangements and gifts for Earth Day in April and Mother's Day in May. Marvin pointed to their social media for more details.



Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP) Beyond the Rails Community Grants:

Awards Top \$100,000; Groups Encouraged to Apply by May 30



“Go Jaguars!” PLTP was proud to award a recent grant to the Silver Spring International Middle School Parent-Teacher-Student Association.

Since debuting the **Beyond the Rails** community grant program in 2023, Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP) has awarded 36 grants totaling more than \$100,000 to organizations making Purple Line communities better places to live, work and play. Top grant categories have included youth/education, food insecurity, pedestrian/bike safety, environment and health/wellness. PLTP, the private-sector partner of MDOT MTA, is the sole sponsor of the grant program.

May 30 is the deadline to apply for the next batch of grants, and PLTP encourages eligible groups working to uplift local communities to submit their **two-page applications** soon.

“We invite community groups to apply for a Beyond the Rails grant, ensuring our program achieves the greatest good,” said Doran Bosso, PLTP Chief Executive Officer.

“So many remarkable organizations along the Purple Line corridor work tirelessly to improve the lives of residents. As long-time members of the community ourselves, we created the program to provide resources to help groups achieve their goals.”

Beyond the Rails Fast Facts:

- Application deadline is May 30, 2026
- Grants available up to \$3,000
- 8 grants awarded every 6 months (16 per year)

Applying is as simple as filling out this **short application form**. Have a question or need assistance? Email us at grants@purplelinepartners.com. PLTP plans an announcement and funding distribution to grantees this summer.

Purple Line Glenridge Operations and Maintenance Facility Awarded LEED Silver Certification



Overhead shot of OMF, Photo of LEED plaque.

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