



# PURPLE LINE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



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



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May is National Bike Month, and the future Purple Line stations will make the first- and last-mile connections to work, school or recreation easier. Purple Line light rail vehicles feature easy boarding and onboard bike storage. Purple Line construction includes 16 miles of bike lanes and trails that connect to existing bike infrastructure, making it easier and safer to navigate communities. When cycling across Purple Line tracks remember to “Be particular. Ride perpendicular!” Learn more at our website’s [Testing and Safety page](#).

The week of May 4 was National Small Business Week, and the Maryland Department of Transportation’s Purple Line Small Business Grant program announced \$600,000 in awards to 60 small businesses across the Purple Line alignment. You can read more about the grant program, including details about the

application process, on our website [here](#). Please visit our social media channels @purplelinemd to see some of the ways our team helps promote small businesses along the Purple Line.

Across the Purple Line, our year of “motion” is visible. Construction is now almost 90% complete, and crews will be working this summer to complete installation of station structural elements such as signage, stairs, canopy installations and Art in Transit components. Track installation across the alignment was completed May 7. You can view photos of our “Last Rail” celebration with Governor Moore and Lt. Gov. Miller at the bottom of this newsletter. LRV testing across the eastern side of the alignment continues to advance with focus on communications systems, train control systems, traffic signals and more.

Thanks to everyone who joined us live for our spring CAT meetings last month. If you were unable to attend, you can watch the recordings on our [YouTube channel](#) along with our Spring Progress video. Questions and answers from the meetings are shared with communities on our website [here](#).

If you have additional questions, reach out to our Outreach Team anytime at [outreach@purplelinemd.com](mailto:outreach@purplelinemd.com), or call us at 443-451-3706 (or 443-451-3705 for Spanish).

Thanks for following Purple Line,  
Ray Biggs II

# Construction Updates:

## Montgomery County:



Clockwise from top left:

1. The 16th Street-Woodside Station in Silver Spring. The station was the site of the last rail connection for the entire alignment.
2. Tracks alongside the Capital Crescent Trail near Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase. The trail is being graded and paved this spring and summer, offering an exciting glimpse at the future of mobility in the area.
3. The Purple Line mezzanine at the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit Center in downtown Silver Spring. The mezzanine will make for smooth transfers between the Purple Line and Metro Red Line.
4. The Long Branch Station is taking shape alongside Arliss Street near Piney Branch Road.

# Construction Updates:

## Prince George's County:



Clockwise from top left:

1. An aerial view of the Glenridge Station at the Veterans Parkway and Annapolis Road intersection. The station will connect riders to dozens of local businesses at the intersection.
2. Pedestrian crossings at the Riverdale Park North-UMD Station will allow passengers to move between eastbound and westbound platforms.
3. Crews constructing the walkway from River Road to the University of Maryland's Anacostia Building, complete with rail crossing signals. The new path to the building improves access in the university's Discovery District.
4. The Adelphi Road-UMGC-UMD Station platform in the center of Campus Drive in College Park.

# Business Spotlight: Manuel's Beauty Salon

2063B University Blvd E.

Hyattsville, MD 20783

Ph. 240-641-4109

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Thursday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Friday to Saturday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Instagram: @ManuelsBeautySalon

Facebook: @ManuelsBeautySalon

TikTok: @ManuelsBeautySalon816

Steps away from: Purple Line Riggs Road Station



*Manuel's Beauty Salon owner, stylist and makeup artist, Manuel Posada, has been styling hair since 2011. "All the current trends didn't exist 20 years ago so, I'm constantly innovating. I'm primarily self-taught, and every day I strive to do my best."*



*Manuel's Beauty Salon is a full-service salon for both men and women, including haircuts, extensions, coloring, permanent straightening and perms, barbering, brow waxing and shaping and makeup artistry.*

*Posada credits his team for their skill and creativity in a competitive industry, saying, "My team stays focused on being the best version of themselves. That's how we grow and improve, striving to do our best for our clients every day."*



*Manuel's Beauty Salon has been in their Hyattsville location for 12 years. Posada shared, "As stylists, we empower our clients by helping boost their self-esteem. Women should have high self-esteem; it can transform lives and that is the most beautiful thing we can offer our community."*



*Posada with Purple Line Business Engagement Officer, Marlene Colon.*

*When asked about the Purple Line nearing construction completion and looking ahead to operating service, Posada commented, "I'm the kind of person who thinks ahead. We have clients from Virginia and Washington, D.C. as well as local clients here in Prince George's County. Clients have commented to me about traffic on the roads, so I can't wait to say there is a station just half a block away from my salon. As a business owner, I'm excited, and I congratulate Prince George's County for prioritizing business owners, because with this project, small business will grow."*

# People Behind the Purple Line: Chris Stokes, Public Information Coordinator, Maryland Transit Solutions



Chris Stokes joined the Purple Line just before groundbreaking in August 2017. His role encompasses almost every public-facing element of the project, from construction notifications to progress photos, events, and more. With the last rail connection this month, it's the perfect time to get his perspective on how far we've come.

## Purple Line: What is it like to see the last rail connection come together?

Chris Stokes: It's exciting to be part of a project that will enhance so many people's daily lives, and seeing it finally come together is incredible. I took photos of the groundbreaking event, and now we're bookending that with the final rail connection as we approach the completion of construction across the alignment.

## PL: What's been the most rewarding part of the past 12 months of progress?

CS: Seeing the train running is obviously the coolest thing. The first light rail vehicle (LRV) on the tracks was number 101, and I went to the CAF facility in Elmira, NY for the early stages of assembling LRV 101. It was an empty shell then, and now it's running on our tracks. Getting to photograph that same LRV and present it to the public is pretty special.

## PL: How has public perception shifted during your time with the project?

CS: It's been exciting to see people embracing the project this year. When we first started, we had to introduce people to the project. Now we see more people realizing the benefits and getting excited about how they'll be able to use a brand-new system.

## PL: What is the most rewarding part of your job?

CS: I like telling the stories of construction because of the moment you explain something to the public, and it clicks for them. That's the main reason I do construction communication. You're helping things get built, but you're also helping people have confidence in what's going on in their neighborhood.



Purple Line project photographer Chris Stokes behind the camera.

# Maryland Celebrates Purple Line Last Rail Installation

Governor Wes Moore, Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller and numerous Maryland dignitaries helped us commemorate the final rail connection at the 16th Street-Woodside Station.



*Last Rail photos courtesy of the Executive Office of the Governor.*

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

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

