



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
 THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

September 20, 2007

Item #15

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Judy Daniel, Community Based Planning- Bethesda/Chevy Chase  
 Glenn Kreger, Community Based Planning-Silver Spring/Takoma Park  
 Rick Hawthorne, Chief, Transportation Planning *DKH for*

FROM: Tom Autrey, Supervisor, Transportation Planning (301-495-4533) *TA*  
 Katherine Holt, Coordinator, Transportation Planning (301-495-4549) *KH*

SUBJECT: Appointment of Purple Line Functional Master Plan Advisory Group (MPAG)

**STAFF RECOMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the following individuals be invited to serve on the Purple Line Master Plan Advisory Group:

From Bethesda / Chevy Chase Area

Edward Asher	Sue Knapp
Pat Baptiste	Anne Martin
Veda Charrow	Judy Tso
Marcy Fisher	Mier Wolf

From Silver Spring Area

Alan Bowser	Caleb Kreisberg
Karen Fitzgerald	William Mellema
Tony Hausner	Edward "Ted" Power
Jonathan Jay	Harry Sanders

From Takoma Park Area

Eric DeVaris	Laurie Kelly
Clay Harris	Jose Rodriguez
Gretchen Hilburger	Fred Shultz
Byrne Kelly	Todd Solomon

Countywide

Phil Alperson	Peter Gray
Georgette Godwin	

**BACKGROUND**

On May 17, 2007, the Planning Board approved the distribution of the Draft Purpose and Outreach Strategy Report and authorized the establishment of a Master Plan Advisory Group (MPAG) to assist the staff in its work on the Purple Line Functional Master Plan.

The Planning Board's Media Center issued a press release (Attachment A) soliciting expressions of interest in serving on the MPAG from County residents. A total of 82 individuals responded by the July 13, 2007 deadline.

**MPAG SIZE AND METHOD OF SELECTION**

The Planning Board's guidelines recommend that a MPAG be comprised of approximately 8-10 residents "from the community under study."<sup>1</sup> The staff is recommending a MPAG that is larger because of the area involved and the scope of the project.

Developing a list of recommended members was not easy. As noted above, over 80 individuals expressed an interest. Many of those that expressed an interest have extensive experience with Purple Line issues and/or possess technical background and training in any number of areas that are central to Purple Line planning. Some individuals that expressed an interest also offer expertise and experience that could help the staff reach residents that would not necessarily find easy access to planning forums of this type. The staff has attempted to balance these attributes (i.e., Purple Line and public involvement experience vs. outreach to potentially under-represented residents) and geographical representation in arriving at the recommended list.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Master Planning Process In Montgomery County*, Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, September 1997, page 20. See document at: [www.mc-mncppc.org/community/about/mp\\_process.pdf](http://www.mc-mncppc.org/community/about/mp_process.pdf)

## **PROFILE OF RECOMMENDED MPAG MEMBERS**

The following provides a brief profile of each recommended member:

### **Bethesda/Chevy Chase Area:**

- Edward Asher of Chevy Chase is the President of Chevy Chase Land Company.
- Pat Baptiste of Chevy Chase is a member of the Coalition of the Capital Crescent Trail and a former Planning Board member.
- Veda Charrow of Chevy Chase is a social scientist.
- Marcy Fisher of Chevy Chase is a consultant with a focus on public and assisted housing
- Sue Knapp of Bethesda is a transportation consultant and represents the Western Montgomery County Citizen's Advisory Board.
- Anne Martin of Bethesda is an attorney and represents the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce.
- Judy Tso of Bethesda is a metro rider and served on non-profit boards for Asian American Resource Workshops.
- Mier Wolf of Chevy Chase is a Council Member of the Town of Chevy Chase.

### **Silver Spring Area:**

- Alan Bowser is a member of the Park Hills Civic Association and the Silver Spring Citizen's Advisory Board.
- Karen Fitzgerald resides on Wayne Avenue, is concerned about neighborhood impacts, and has a background in grants management for housing and neighborhood development initiatives.
- Tony Hausner of Silver Spring represents Prezco (Presidents' Council of Silver Spring Civic Associations).
- Jonathan Jay resides near the alignment, is a member of the Seven Oaks/ Evanswood Neighborhood Association and also represents Prezco (Presidents' Council of Silver Spring Civic Associations).
- Caleb Kriesberg is a professor at Montgomery College and resides on Thayer Avenue. He has lived in either Takoma Park or Silver Spring the last ten years.
- William Mellema resides in Woodside adjacent to the CSX right of way.
- Edward "Ted" Power is a former City Council member in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina where he was involved with growth management issues facing the greater Charleston area. He has recently relocated to the area.
- Harry Sanders is a member of Action Committee for Transit (ACT), resides in Silver Spring near the CSX right-of-way and is the Woodside Civic Association liaison on Purple Line issues.

#### Takoma Park Area:

- Eric DeVaris is an architect and former local elected official and has recently moved to the area from New Jersey.
- Clay Harris is a school teacher, former Director of Friends of Old Takoma and a native of Takoma Park.
- Gretchen Hilburger resides on Maple Avenue, works for the City Police Department and the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE program.
- Byrne Kelly is a Landscape Architect that served on the Takoma Park Master Plan Advisory Committee.
- Laurie Kelly is a Takoma Park resident and Pedestrian Safety Committee member.
- Jose Rodriguez resides in Chevy Chase and is a founding member of the Long Branch Business League and member of the Montgomery County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
- Fred Shultz resides within walking distance of the proposed Takoma / Langley Park station, is a former city planner and member of the Public Safety Citizen Advisory Committee.
- Todd Solomon teaches at the University of Maryland and is a member of the New Hampshire Gardens Community Association.

#### Countywide:

- Georgette Godwin is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce.
- Peter Gray is Chair of the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail.
- Phil Alperson is the Montgomery County BRAC Coordinator.

#### **NEXT STEPS FOR THE MPAG**

Once approved by the Planning Board, the staff will notify the MPAG members and an initial meeting will be scheduled. The meeting date and time will be placed on the project web site. In addition, each individual that has expressed an interest in serving on the MPAG will receive notification of scheduled meetings.

The focus of the first meeting or two will be on the review of the Draft Purpose and Outreach Report and a briefing by the Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MTA) project team on the alternatives under review and the alternative analysis process used by the Federal Transit Administration in rating projects. Staff will provide summaries of each MPAG meeting on the project web site. The overall initial objective is to provide the MPAG with background on the project history, the Purple Line Draft Environmental

Impact Statement (DEIS) process, and the Functional Master Plan effort in advance of the Purple Line Open Houses that will be held later this fall by the MTA project team.

### **PURPLE LINE DRAFT ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCHEDULE**

As noted above, the MTA is planning to hold open houses later this fall. Updated information on the alternatives and alignments should be available, along with initial ridership estimates. The DEIS document is scheduled to be released in spring 2008, followed by a Public Hearing and the eventual selection of a “Locally Preferred Alternative”. Additional information, including maps of the alignment alternatives, is available on the project web site at [www.purplelinemd.com](http://www.purplelinemd.com). Additional information on the Planning Board’s Purple Line Functional Master Plan process is available on the agency’s web site at [www.mc-mncppc.org/transportation](http://www.mc-mncppc.org/transportation) under “Selected Public Transit Projects”.

## Media Center

June 14, 2007

### Montgomery County Planners Seek Volunteers to Collaborate on Purple Line Plan

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The Montgomery County Planning Board seeks applicants for a community advisory committee to work with its planners as they craft a plan for the proposed Metro Purple Line, slated to connect Bethesda and New Carrollton.

The advisory committee will help planners analyze the transit line's potential impacts on the community. Called a functional master plan, the resulting product will lay out the Planning Department's recommendations for the type of transit – light rail or rapid bus – alignment, and station locations in Montgomery County.

The Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MTA) is in charge of the Purple Line project and continues to study and seek funding for the line. The Purple Line functional master plan will provide a framework for the Montgomery County Planning Board to react quickly to the MTA's recommendations for the alignment of either light rail or rapid bus transit, expected by summer 2008.

Prospective Purple Line advisory committee members will attend frequent meetings through fall 2008. Other tasks will include considering environmental issues and resident concerns and ensuring conformance of the proposed Purple Line with other county master plans. The Planning Department staff plans to hold public outreach activities in concert with the advisory committee.

Representatives from civic groups, businesses, residents, environmental organizations, property owners and the general public are encouraged to apply for representation on the advisory committee by submitting a letter of interest by Friday, **July 13, 2007 (details below)**.

Send letters of interest to:

Tom Autrey, Transportation Planning Division

[thomas.autrey@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:thomas.autrey@mncppc-mc.org)

Fax: (301) 495- 495-1302

Or mail to:

Tom Autrey, Transportation Planning Division

Montgomery County Planning Department

8787 Georgia Ave.

Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760

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