



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 527 - MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION - PURPLE LINE - FREE RIDERSHIP AND ADVERTISING

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
MARCH 27TH, 2025

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Once built, the Purple Line will bring many benefits to the communities through which it travels.

However, the Purple Line construction itself has been a years-long debacle, especially for the residents and businesses who live along and near the construction site. They have endured daily disruptions of all kinds: road closures, traffic detours, pedestrian hazards, accessibility violations, rough roads, construction noises, etc. Frustrations for residents continue to mount as the finish line is delayed and repairs aren't made as construction progresses¹. Local businesses along the route have seen significant declines in customers as construction diverts traffic, blocks off roads, and generally gives the appearance of the area being closed. Some are barely hanging on, hoping to make it to the opening of the line². Residents and businesses deserve some acknowledgement for the harms they have suffered as the line, which will benefit the entire region, is being built. The state can provide that and develop excitement for the line with this legislation.

This bill will:

Provide a very modest gesture of gratitude to the residents and businesses along the route who have been harmed by the construction.

- Residents within a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile of the line will receive a pass to ride the Purple Line for free for one month.
- Small businesses within a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile of the line will receive free promotional materials and services beginning on October 25th, 2025 and until three months after transit service on the purple line begins.
- The Maryland Transit Administration will use internal resources available to implement this program, including:
 - Websites maintained by the Administration.
 - The printing and design services of the Administration.

- The Administration will not be required to procure private advertising or marketing services.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 527.

¹ Broom, Scott. "Pressure on Purple Line to Speed up Road Repairs While Construction Is in Progress." *WUSA9*, 27 Sept. 2023, www.wusa9.com/article/traffic/mission-metro/purple-line-construction-frustration-for-maryland-suburb-residents/65-dd22ed98-61dd-452c-8090-847fa1021869.
² Ryan, Kate. "'We're Still Hanging on!': Businesses and Residents in Silver Spring on the Continued Purple Line Construction." *WTOP News*, 16 Mar. 2024, wtop.com/montgomery-county/2024/03/were-still-hanging-on-businesses-and-residents-in-silver-spring-on-the-continued-purple-line-construction/.