

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 527

(Delegate Charkoudian, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation and  
Appropriations

Finance

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Maryland Transit Administration - Purple Line - Free Ridership and  
Promotional Materials and Services

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This bill requires the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to develop and implement a program to provide (1) for the first month after transit service on the Purple Line begins, ridership on Purple Line transit vehicles at no cost to individuals residing within a 0.25-mile radius of the Purple Line track and (2) beginning October 1, 2025, and until three months after transit service on the Purple Line begins, promotional materials and services at no cost to small businesses located within a 0.25-mile radius of the Purple Line track. To implement the program, MTA must use internal resources it has available, including the websites it maintains and its printing and design services. The bill may not be construed to require MTA to procure private advertising or marketing services. MTA must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues decrease by \$75,000 in FY 2028 only due to foregone fare revenues. TTF expenditures likely increase from FY 2026 through 2028 to provide promotional materials and services at no cost to small businesses, as discussed below.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Meaningful.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** MTA is a modal unit within the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), and it operates a comprehensive transit system throughout the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, including more than 50 local bus lines in Baltimore and other services, such as the light rail, Baltimore Metro subway, commuter buses, MARC trains, and mobility/paratransit vehicles. Except for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, MDOT and MTA are generally the agencies responsible for the construction and operation of transit lines in the State, including the Purple Line.

The Purple Line is a 16-mile light rail line that will connect Prince George's and Montgomery counties, offering a direct link to other public transit services. The Purple Line is tentatively scheduled to begin operations in late calendar 2027 (fiscal 2028). More information about the Purple Line can be found on the project website: <https://www.purplelinemd.com/>.

**State Revenues:** The bill's requirement to provide free service to individuals living within a 0.25-mile radius of the Purple Line track for the first month after transit service on the Purple Line begins decreases TTF revenues by an estimated \$75,000 in fiscal 2028 only. This estimate is based on information provided by MTA regarding its anticipated use patterns for the transit line during its initial operations period.

**State Expenditures:** The bill requires MTA, beginning October 1, 2025, and until three months after transit service on the Purple Line begins, to provide promotional materials and services at no cost to small businesses located within a 0.25-mile radius of the Purple Line track. Accordingly, TTF expenditures likely increase from fiscal 2026 through 2028 for MTA to provide such materials and services; however, any increase in expenditures depends on the extent of the program established by MTA through regulation and cannot be predicted in advance.

**Small Business Effect:** Small businesses within a 0.25-mile radius of the Purple Line track likely benefit from free promotional materials and services provided by MTA.

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## Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2025  
caw/lgc Third Reader - March 14, 2025  
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