



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: February 14, 2025
RE: HB527 – Maryland Transit Administration – Purple Line Free
Ridership and Advertising

The MLLC supports HB527 – Maryland Transit Administration – Purple Line – Free Ridership and Advertising

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB527.

This bill provides residents within a ¼ mile radius of the Purple Line with a pass to ride the Purple Line for free for three months and businesses with free advertising on the Purple Line for the first three months of its operation.

Residents and businesses who live and work along and near construction of the Purple Line have endured daily disruptions including road closures, traffic detours, rough roads, and construction noises. Local businesses along the route have experienced significant declines in customers as construction diverts traffic, blocks roads, and generally gives the appearance of the area being closed.¹ 32% of individuals along the Purple Line corridor census tracts are Latino and 26% of individuals are Black. With Black and Latino communities making up a large portion of the population along the Purple Line route, they have been disproportionately impacted by the daily disruptions of construction.²

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB527.

¹ ['We're Still Hanging on!': Businesses and Residents in Silver Spring on the Continued Purple Line Construction](#)

² [Preserving Communities Along the Purple Line](#)