

LORIG CHARKOUDIAN  
Legislative District 20  
Montgomery County

Economic Matters Committee

*Subcommittees*

Public Utilities

Chair, Unemployment Insurance



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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN  
FEBRUARY 14, 2025

Chairs Barnes and Korman, Vice Chairs Chang and Boyce, and Members of the Appropriations Committee and Members the Environment and Transportation 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, rough roads, construction noises, etc. Frustrations for residents continue to mount as the finish line is delayed and repairs aren't made as construction progresses<sup>1</sup>. 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 line<sup>2</sup>. 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 ¼ of a mile of the line will receive a pass to ride the Purple Line for free for three months.
- Businesses within a ¼ of a mile of the line will receive advertising space on Purple Line transit vehicles and at Purple Line stations at no cost to the businesses.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 527.

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.wusa9.com/article/traffic/mission-metro/purple-line-construction-frustration-for-maryland-suburb-residents/65-dd22ed98-61dd-452c-8090-847fa1021869).

<sup>2</sup> 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/](http://wtop.com/montgomery-county/2024/03/were-still-hanging-on-businesses-and-residents-in-silver-spring-on-the-continued-purple-line-construction/).