

HB 527 - SUPPORT  
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**HB 527 SUPPORT**  
**Maryland Transit Administration - Purple Line - Free Ridership and Advertising**

Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 14th, 2025

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee and Chair Ben Barnes and Vice Chair Mark Chang of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Silvia Huevo. I am a resident of Montgomery County, an ex resident of Prince George's County and a business owner along the purple line corridor in both of our beautiful counties. I am the second generation owner of El Comalito, a Salvadoran restaurant with a 20 year history in our community. I am writing today in support of Bill HB527. My story is unique in that I have been able to witness the impact of the purple line construction all the way from Riverdale Park to Bethesda.

It's clear to me that there are communities along the purple line route that are being more negatively affected by this construction than others. In particular the Langley Park/Takoma Park and Riverdale Park areas. In Riverdale Park, the congestion along Kenilworth Avenue has made it difficult for our customers to reach our side of Riverdale. The same congestion and disruption to traffic patterns, both vehicular and pedestrian, have had a serious impact in the Langley Park/Takoma Park District. Our location has seen a decrease in sales since the beginning of the construction project. Pedestrians who live within walking distance of our establishment, cannot safely access our side of the Hampshire Langley Shopping Center. It almost feels as if our community has been split up between the four corners of the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue intersection. Customers within driving distance are actively avoiding our location and are opting for visiting us in other locations that are further away because of the difficulty in accessing our business. I am lucky enough to sit on the board of the Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority, and have heard from fellow board members who are also business owners in this district how their stores literally cannot be accessed due to cones blocking the entrances of their shopping centers. Some of our neighbors have seen 20% to 30% decrease in sales. Some may be more and others are already being displaced. It is my hope that this bill could help provide marketing opportunities for some of the businesses that are clearly hurting due to this construction project. Imagine being a small business owner who made it out of the pandemic, barely able to bounce back and now have major construction happening right outside your door. We are hopeful that this project benefits everyone along the corridor, especially those in more vulnerable areas. I appreciate your time and for considering this testimony as you deliberate on bill HB527.