

RICHARD S. MADALENO, JR.
STATE SENATOR
18th Legislative District
Montgomery County

Budget and Taxation Committee



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

May 20, 2009

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4226

Re: Item 12 - Proposed Amendment to the 2009 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) to include the Purple Line Light Rail Project in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties

Dear Members of the Transportation Planning Board:

As the State Senator representing the community that will be hardest hit by a light rail alignment of the Purple Line, I wanted to use this opportunity to share with you a dissenting opinion on the merits of this project, including this amendment to the CLRP.

I have attached the testimony I submitted at the public hearings on the Purple Line held in November, but I would like to reiterate a few points today about why this project will not be a boon for the region as it has been billed. The proposed Purple Line will not take cars off of the beltway and will instead pull riders from buses that currently serve the east-west corridors of the region. In doing so, it will also destroy what has become a lush, urban greenspace along the Capital Crescent Trail.

At a time when state governments are under tremendous fiscal strain, funding large transit projects will be next to impossible. We need to be responsible officials and see to the maintenance of our existing transit system and only make investments in system expansion when prudent.

I also question the wording of the amendment which, as written, incorporates the Purple Line project into the CLRP as a light rail line only. I would note that Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley has not specifically endorsed the light rail option for the project and that the Bus Rapid Transit Alternative remains viable.

I understand that this project is already included in the CLRP as a transit link between Silver Spring and Bethesda, but I would encourage you to revisit your support for a project whose benefits will be negligible in the face of large environmental and fiscal impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Madaleno".

Richard S. Madaleno, Jr.

□ Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 203
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3137
800-492-7122 Ext. 3137
Richard.Madaleno@senate.state.md.us

□ District Office
11117 Dewey Road
Kensington, Maryland 20895
301-933-5212