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Montgomery County Business Community Calls For Renewed Action On Purple Line

ROCKVILLE, MD – The just-released Purple Line ridership figures from the Maryland Transit Administration underscore the need for a renewed effort to complete the next steps for the transit project. The figures, which project a daily ridership between 42,000 and 47,000 people, confirm what business leaders have long been saying about this critical east-west link.

The Montgomery County business community, led by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce, stand united in their support of the Purple Line and urge state transportation leaders to invest in moving the Purple Line closer to completion.

“We urge the Maryland Transit Administration to refine the outstanding design issues so we can complete the Environmental Impact Statements and move into the Engineering and Construction Phases of the Purple Line,” said Georgette “Gigi” Godwin, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO. “The citizens and businesses of Montgomery County will rely on the Purple Line to relieve east-west congestion and to stimulate economic activity.”

“It is urgent that the MTA move forward as quickly as possible because there is a lot of competition for Federal transportation funding,” said Edward Hall Asher, Chairman of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and President and COO of the Chevy Chase Land Co. “Any delay may mean a lost opportunity for Federal funding in the upcoming cycle, which only increases the cost and complexity of building the Purple Line.”

“The estimated 9-minute travel time between Bethesda and Silver Spring will provide a vital link for economic development between these two vibrant urban centers,” said Jim Walker of Eagle Bank and Chairman of the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce.

“The upcoming influx of jobs and patients to the National Naval Medical Center as a result of BRAC will demand more transportation options to link Bethesda to other parts of Montgomery County and the D.C. Metro area,” said Kevin Maloney, of Maloney & Metz and Chairman of the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce.

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