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Light Rail Purple Line Best Transit Investment Option To Relieve Congestion; Promote Economic Development

ROCKVILLE, MD – The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce calls for state and Federal funding of the Purple Line as a light rail system as the best investment to relieve traffic congestion, spur economic development and connect our communities.

“We believe that a Light Rail Purple Line is the best investment that the Maryland Transit Administration and the Federal Transit Administration could make in our community, given its reliability and efficiency, economic development potential and promise of regional connectivity that doesn’t exist today,” said Georgette “Gigi” Godwin, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO. “We urge the selection of the Light Rail mode along the Georgetown Branch Alignment as the locally preferred alternative.”

Light Rail More Reliable

According to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the Light Rail option, with its dedicated right-of-way, will be faster than the proposed Bus Rapid Transit option, which uses existing roadways. For example, the trip from Bethesda to Silver Spring will take 9 minutes via light rail and 25 minutes via bus. Commuters and businesses will benefit from the faster, more efficient and more reliable light rail system.

“As our economy has changed, so too has the way we work, and Purple Line Light Rail link is critical to connecting our region,” Godwin said. “Increasing transportation options will allow our community to grow and thrive in our diverse and vibrant economy.”