March 9, 2015

Dear Governor Hogan,

We, the undersigned members of the Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC), write to express our support for the Purple Line transit project. We represent a diverse group of civic, community, and business organizations, local governments and anchor institutions (such as the University of Maryland), and concerned citizens with vested interest in the quality of life in the Purple Line Corridor. Our reasons for support include the following:

- The Purple Line will extend benefits for current and future residents, workers, business and property owners in Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, the state of Maryland, and the Washington metropolitan region.

- The Purple Line will create thousands of temporary jobs and hundreds of permanent jobs, stimulate regional economic growth, promote economic empowerment, increase housing options, and contribute to a healthy and attractive physical environment.

- The Purple Line will provide transportation options for residents, employees, employers and institutions, enhancing mobility in a highly congested region.

- The Purple Line presents an opportunity to replace aging infrastructure, invest in environmental improvements, foster improvements in public health, and address the barriers to improvements for our low-income residents in new and innovative ways.

In short, the Purple Line can foster real and measurable improvements in accessibility, mobility, economic vitality, environmental quality, public health, and quality of life throughout the corridor.

Perhaps most importantly, capturing the benefits of transit investments requires coordination and cooperation by a broad group of stakeholders, and community conflict and debate can make it difficult to achieve transit’s myriad community benefits. The PLCC overcomes these obstacles and offers coordinated support. Our joint commitment offers the opportunity to truly maximize a return on this important investment.

To facilitate cooperation and resolve conflicts before they arise, the undersigned engaged in a transparent and inclusive dialog, set goals and made commitments as part of a process to develop a Purple Line Community Compact, which is currently in draft form. Participants in this dialog included the signatories of this letter as well as over 300 leaders from communities, businesses and local governments in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. The document represents consensus among these groups.
We understand that Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Rahn is reviewing the Purple Line, that there may be changes to the project schedule and scope, and that the Administration might have new ideas about how the Purple Line can further social and economic goals. When the administration is ready to proceed, the Purple Line Corridor Coalition, which has a proven record of forging consensus, is ready to work with the administration.

Sincerely,

Gerrit Knaap
Director, National Center for Smart Growth
On Behalf of the Purple Line Corridor Coalition

cc: Craig Williams

Purple Line Corridor Coalition Members

- Action Committee for Transit
- Action Langley Park
- Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County
- BRIDGE Maryland
- CASA de Maryland
- Chevy Chase Land Company
- Coalition for Smarter Growth
- Colvin Institute for Real Estate Development
- Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.
- Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County
- Innovative Housing Institute
- Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association
- Maryland Small Business & Technology Development Center
- Montgomery County Councilmember
  - George Leventhal
- Montgomery County Planning Department
- Montgomery Housing Partnership
- National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland
- Prince George’s County Councilmember
  - Dannielle Glaros
- Prince George’s County Councilmember
  - Deni Taveras
- Purple Line Now
- Purple Rail Alliance