

From: Action Committee for Transit
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PURPLE LINE FOES ARE “TRAIL SAVERS” ONLY IN CHEVY CHASE They Back Diesel Buses Along Silver Spring Section of Trail

The Action Committee for Transit tomorrow launches a campaign to warn hikers, bikers, and skaters about the Town of Chevy Chase's proposal to run diesel buses along the Capital Crescent Trail instead of building the light rail Purple Line. Under the town's scheme, a two-lane highway for buses would be built next to the trail between Silver Spring Metro and Jones Mill Road. But the buses would keep away from the part of the trail that adjoins the town — instead they would loop into Bethesda via Jones Bridge Road and Woodmont Avenue.

The push for diesel buses alongside the trail came to light when ACT uncovered a presentation to the March 12 Town Council meeting by Sam Schwartz, a consultant hired by the town to support its anti-Purple Line efforts. The hiring of Schwartz was initiated by Town Council member Mier Wolf, who chairs the anti-Purple Line coalition, the Greater Bethesda Chevy Chase Coalition.

The plan to run diesel buses next to the Silver Spring section of the trail demonstrates that the slogan “Save the Trail” is nothing more than a disguise for the agenda of keeping the Purple Line out of Chevy Chase. The GBCCC — in which the Town of Chevy Chase remains a member — calls its lobbying arm the Committee to Save the Trail and its website savethetrail.org.

“I'd rather see an occasional light-rail train than a constant stream of diesel buses passing by the trail,” commented long-time trail advocate Wayne Phyllaier. Phyllaier operates the Silver Spring trails website, which includes detailed analyses of how the trail relates to the Purple Line, at <http://www.silverspringtrails.org>. “‘Save the Trail’ should value the whole trail, not just the part of it in their own Chevy Chase neighborhood,” Phyllaier added.

Leaflets will be distributed on the Capital Crescent Trail beginning tomorrow, Saturday, at 11:00 am. ACT volunteers will be on the trail at Bethesda Avenue, opposite Barnes and Noble in Bethesda. The leaflet (attached) asks trail users to write Governor O'Malley in opposition to the diesel bus plan.

To learn more about the diesel bus plan, visit:
<http://www.actfortransit.org/dieseltrail.html> .