

For immediate release, Friday, Feb. 8, 2008

SUPPORT FOR PURPLE LINE REAFFIRMED BY SILVER SPRING NEIGHBORS

The Woodside Civic Association, representing one of the neighborhoods that directly adjoins the future Purple Line, reaffirmed its support for the light rail and Capital Crescent Trail project this week. A resolution supporting the Purple Line and Capital Crescent Trail sharing the same right of way was passed by unanimous vote at a meeting Tuesday night. The text is attached.

Resolution on the Inner Purple Line and Capital Crescent Trail

February 5, 2008

Whereas the Woodside Civic Association represents homeowners and tenants living along the CSX right of way and between Spring Street, 16th Street and Georgia Avenue, and

Whereas The Woodside neighborhood resides along the route of the proposed Inner Purple Line and Capital Crescent Trail, and

Whereas the proposed Purple Line and Capital Crescent Trail are of critical interest to our community; in that the proposed Light Rail Transit line and hiker-biker trail will be constructed along the western border of our neighborhood, and

Whereas the Woodside Civic Association believes the Purple Line will help ensure that the quality of life for our residents is not negatively impacted by traffic generated by the revitalization of downtown Silver Spring, and

Whereas the Woodside neighborhood opposes widening of roads such as Georgia Avenue, Spring Street and 16th Street and would have been irreparably harmed by the proposed Central Leg Freeway, and

Whereas the lack of a rail transit connections between the two branches of the red line is a major weakness of the existing Metrorail system, and

Whereas current proposals for the Purple Line include a stop at 16th Street from which the trip to downtown Bethesda will be between 7 and 8 minutes and transit travel time from Woodside to Rockville, Friendship Heights and many other destinations will be significantly reduced, and

Whereas the proposed hiker-biker trail will provide a significant improvement to the recreational trail system for our residents, ensuring a safe way of traveling by bike or on foot to Rock Creek Park and other destinations, and

Whereas failure to proceed with the joint use transit/trail project may leave residents of Silver Spring with no off-road connection to the Georgetown Branch and Capital Crescent Trails and

Whereas the Georgetown Branch was purchased by Montgomery County in 1990 specifically to be used for transit and recreation,

Whereas, major environmental organizations all agree that expansion of light rail transit can play a major role in reducing the greenhouse gases contributing to global warming,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT

1. WCA affirm its longstanding support for the joint use of the Georgetown Branch for a trolley and trail as well as the extension of the light rail line to College Park and New Carrollton, as stated in the resolution passed by the Association unanimously in 2003.
2. WCA believes the completion of the Purple Line and Capital Crescent Trail should be the number one transit priority in the State of Maryland.
3. WCA supports the location of a transit stop at 16th Street on the west side of the CSX right of way in the vicinity of the Spring Center and expresses its hope that the station design can include some elements reflective of the historic relationship between Woodside and rail transit.
4. WCA affirms its support for the completion of the hiker-biker trail along the 3rd Avenue right-of-way between 16th Street and Spring Streets, and supports moving forward with segments of this trail connection wherever possible so that the neighborhood gains some improvements to the trail and so that regrading and replanting along the impacted area can proceed as quickly as possible.

Drafted: January 13, 2008

Introduced to Membership: February 3, 2008

Voted on by Membership: February 5, 2008

Vote Tally: Unanimous

