

For Immediate Release
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From: Action Committee for Transit

STATE FINDS FLAWS IN BUS ALTERNATIVE TO PURPLE LINE

Deep flaws in the bus route alternative to the Purple Line backed by the Town of Chevy Chase are revealed in a new letter from Maryland Transportation Secretary John Porcari.

The Porcari letter is attached. Purple Line backers see the letter as added confirmation that light rail is the best solution for improving transportation between Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park, and New Carrollton. New figures show light rail could carry 68,000 riders per day.

Under the Town's plan, diesel buses would run next to the Capital Crescent Trail in Silver Spring. The buses would avoid the portion of the trail that adjoins the Town, instead following Jones Bridge Road and Woodmont Avenue into Bethesda. For a map showing both the Town's bus route and the proposed light rail route, go to:

<http://www.actfortransit.org/PurpleLineACT4-625px.png>

A report by the Town's consultant, Sam Schwartz PLLC, argued that transit could move almost as quickly on Jones Bridge Road as along the light rail by having lights turn green whenever a bus approaches. The Porcari letter points out that this is impossible where Jones Bridge Road crosses Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenues because these heavily traveled roads would be hopelessly snarled by frequent red lights.

The letter also identifies additional errors in the Schwartz report.

More information about the Town of Chevy Chase bus plan is available at:
<http://www.actfortransit.org/dieseltrail.html>

For more information about the Purple Line:
<http://www.innerpurpleline.org/>

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