

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, October 29, 2008
Source: Action Committee for Transit

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE SAYS TRAIL NEEDS LESS VEGETATION - CONTRADICTS ITS OWN ARGUMENT AGAINST PURPLE LINE

After arguing for years that the Purple Line light rail line should not be built because it would be necessary to remove trees that hide nearby buildings from the Capital Crescent Trail, the town now says that these trees are a threat to public safety and need to be removed immediately.

After two robberies occurred on a portion of the trail next to the town, Mayor Kathy Strom recommended the removal of shrubbery so that the trail would be visible from the surrounding neighborhood. She endorsed police department guidelines which recommend removal of vegetation to ensure a clear line of sight between the trail and the windows of nearby houses. See this news article:

http://www.gazette.net/stories/10292008/bethnew205132_32490.shtml

The anti-Purple Line argument has always been that if the Purple Line is built, the hiker-biker trail alongside it would no longer have a "natural ambience" in which developed real estate is concealed by vegetation. The town now says the natural ambience has to go - buildings must be clearly visible at all points along the trail.

"Once again we see that the slogan 'Save the Trail' is merely a smokescreen," commented Ben Ross, president of the Action Committee for Transit. "The real choice is simple - do we want better transit, or will we force east-west commuters to sit in ever-worsening traffic jams."

To learn more about the Town of Chevy Chase and the Purple Line:

<http://www.innerpurpleline.org/townofChevyChase.htm>

To learn more about the trail and the Purple Line:

<http://www.innerpurpleline.org/trail.htm>