



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Main Administration Building  
College Park, Maryland 20742  
301.405.5803 TEL 301.314.9560 FAX

May 16, 2007

Emma Simson  
Past-Student Body President

Andrew Friedson  
Student Body President

David Daddio  
Co-Editor, Rethink College Park

Jahantab Siddiqui  
President, Off-Campus Student Association

Laura Moore  
President, GSGA

Robert Goodspeed  
Co-Editor, Rethink College Park

Devin Ellis  
Chair, USM Student Council

Jesse Blitzstein  
City Council-Student Liaison

Dear Emma, Andrew, David, Jahantab, Laura, Robert, Devin, and Jesse:

I am writing in response to your letter of April 25, 2007, supporting the value of the Purple Line. I agree fully that the University will benefit from a mass transit system that connects it to Bethesda and New Carrollton. For that reason we have supported the concept of the Purple line from the outset and have actively participated in promoting it. We remain supportive.

When it comes to a particular Purple Line configuration through the campus, sufficient details of the plan become important before a commitment can be made to it. They include but are not limited to the route chosen, the effect on the campus environment, track bed issues, costs, pedestrian safety, and so forth. I am certain you agree that it would be irresponsible to support a Purple Line configuration through the University campus that has not been explored in some detail. As yet, we have not seen such detail on any configuration plan. I have requested information about the plans being considered for such an evaluation. Possibly our input to the plans may also be helpful.

We requested that the East Campus Development Project incorporate plans for the Purple Line, understanding that flexibility was needed since its alignment was unknown. We are hopeful that there will be MTA options that we both can support fully.

I appreciate your writing to explain your support of the Purple Line, and I want you to know that I will continue to work to fulfill the goals of the campus Master Plan, including mass transportation options for our students, visitors, and employees, as well as a pedestrian friendly and environmentally sensitive campus.

Yours sincerely,

E. D. Mote, Jr.  
President

CDM/crf  
cc: Doug Duncan