



**County Executive Rushern Bakers Remarks  
Purple Line Strategic Summit  
Monday, January 27, 2014**

- I want to thank my colleagues who are here from Prince George's County as well as an impressive group of leaders from our business and non-profit communities. Please give them a round of applause.
- I also want to thank Delegate Tawanna Gaines for her leadership on this important issue and the rest of our delegation as well as the members of the Purple Line Legislative Caucus.
- As with the minimum wage, we understand that this issue is about the region. That is why you see a cross-county effort that resulted in the creation of this Legislative Caucus.
- Today we are here to confidently say to everyone, including decision-makers at the federal level, that **Prince George's and Montgomery counties are completely unified in our efforts to make the Purple Line light rail system a reality.**
- We are taking the lead from Senator Cardin and the Maryland congressional delegation as we **elevate the Purple Line as one of the best New Start projects in the country.**
- **Our voice for the Purple Line has been strong, unified and aggressive here in Annapolis** and our focus on this vital regional transit hub helped secure some needed votes to increase the gas tax in the last legislative session.

- In fact, the advocates of the Purple Line should take some credit for getting the needed gas tax adjustment across the finish line.
- Now our **combined and collective voices must be carried all the way to Capitol Hill** – with the same strategic focus and intensity. We are here to say that **nothing will stop us until we secure all the approvals and funding** – nothing will stop us!
- And today we **represent the combined and powerful voices of Prince George’s County.**
- The Purple Line will create an extraordinary economic future for Prince George’s County. It will help to transform Prince George’s over the next 10 years and we are committed to ensuring that the Purple Line gets built.
- The economic development we will see from this monumental project will be unmatched. It will change the economic landscape of our county and the region.
- Envision what New Carrollton, Riverdale, University Park; Langley Park (and so many of the other Prince George’s stations) will be like in 2025 with the Purple Line.
- The Purple Line will help us to **create some of the region’s most dynamic, well-planned, and highly desirable communities.** Communities that will cause the next generation to flock to Prince George’s County.
- **These are not dreams. And I believe it will be our reality.** If we stick together and do everything possible to sell the Prince George’s case for the Purple Line to the Federal government.

- **Prince George's is ready for the Purple Line.** We have made significant adjustments to our master and sector plans. We have adjusted capital spending plans, and we have and will continue to reach out to those communities that will be affected by this project.
- We are a County of opportunity and the **Purple Line will create an interconnected and needed enhanced transportation network for the Nation's Capital** – and we all must be focused on this like a laser.
- The Purple Line is our opportunity to not just better connect our counties, but to move thousands of our citizens and workers in the quickest and safest manner that is environmentally sound as well as create vibrant communities to flourish along its path.
- You see, the economic benefits that the Purple Line will create are powerful. I **have seen the economic impact studies and they are incredible and firm indicators of the need for this line.**
- The **Purple Line will move thousands and thousands of federal employees and those who do business with the Federal government** –permitting an interaction between Federal agencies across this Federal enclave that we have never seen.
- This is **why some believe that the Purple Line should be a strategic priority for our national government,** because it will be unlike any other transit projects currently on the drawing board.
- **The Purple Line has the potential to create its own economic corridor that can rival our neighbors in northern Virginia's high-tech center or other vital economic corridors around this country.**

- And the Federal government (with its many federal agencies, investments and spending) will be at the heart of it, along with our universities, our financial investors and other aspects of the business community.
- Ladies and gentlemen, this is the power and the economic ripple effect that the Purple Line will have.
- I have been saying that Prince George's County is the Place to Be and the Purple Line will help to solidify that notion.
- With the underlying economics being so potent and our combined consumer purchasing power we will be generating enormous positive impacts up and down this 16 mile network and most profoundly for Prince George' County.
- Ladies and gentlemen, it is **time to paint Prince George's Purple.** Purple is a distinctive color. A color that it close to my heart. It is one of my fraternity colors.
- 20 years from now, we will look back on our efforts and feel good to know that we had the vision and convinced our Federal leaders that an investment in the Purple Line would change the region.
- Today is about making that vision a reality. Prince George's County is the Place to Be and this effort is about better connecting this great place to and building communities and a transportation system that will attract people to live, work, invest and visit.
- We must forge forward in securing the necessary funding to paint Prince George's Purple, which will benefit the State of Maryland and the region.