

April 14, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Madam Secretary:

We represent a coalition of real estate developers and business organizations who have collectively invested billions of dollars in projects and ventures located in suburban Maryland, and we write to you now in support of the Purple Line light rail project.

The Purple Line is a 21-station, 16-mile light rail project that would provide a missing east-west transit link through Washington, D.C.'s densely populated Maryland suburbs. It would connect travelers to Metro's Red, Green, and Orange lines, as well as MARC, Amtrak, and numerous local bus lines. By 2040, it is projected to carry close to 70,000 riders a day—and we believe this is a conservative estimate, given local population growth and development patterns.

In 2014, the FTA granted a final Record of Decision for the Purple Line, enabling it to receive a \$900 million New Starts grant. Last spring, the state selected a private concessionaire to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain the Purple Line for a 35-year term. Design was well underway when a federal judge stayed the Purple Line in a lawsuit brought by a group of opponents who live near a right-of-way purchased almost 30 years ago for this project. A ruling is expected at any time on an updated ridership analysis submitted by the FTA per the court's request.

We applaud efforts to deploy scarce government resources effectively, and we believe the Purple Line is exactly the kind of infrastructure project this administration should seek to fund:

- **The Purple Line is shovel-ready** and would have been under construction last fall, had not a federal judge halted the project in response to a claim challenging the Purple Line's environmental approval—in fact, the judge vacated the Record of Decision just several days before the Full Funding Grant Agreement was to be signed and after more than a decade of study and countless public meetings and hearings.
- **Infrastructure developers have secured over \$500 million in private sector financing commitments for the Purple Line Project**, making it only the second transit P3 project in the country and the largest transportation project in Maryland's history. The cancellation of a P3 project of this magnitude at this late stage in the process—when the concessionaire has already invested hundreds of millions of dollars—would have a powerful negative impact on the ability to attract future private infrastructure investment.
- According to a 2015 study, **the Purple Line is projected to create thousands of short-term construction jobs and approximately 25,000 new permanent jobs as a result of economic**

growth stimulated by the project, and will increase property values along the route by \$13 billion.

Success in business and real estate requires long-term strategic planning, and many of us have made important decisions and investments in reliance on the expectation that the Purple Line would be funded after so many years of exhaustive planning and analysis. We are confident that after completing its review, the court will reinstate the ROD. At that time, we ask that you ensure that the Purple Line receives its expected federal grant, allowing this critical project to proceed without further delay.

Sincerely,

**Kristi Smith, Executive Vice President
The JBG Companies**

**Thomas S. Bozzuto, Jr., President & CEO
The Bozzuto Group**

**John Collich, Senior Vice President
B.F. Saul Company & Affiliates**

**Ramsey Meiser, Senior Vice President
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**Christopher A. Bruch, President & Chief
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**Greg Rooney, Vice President
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**Sri Velamati, Chief Operating Officer
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**Bob Youngentob, President and Chief Creative
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**Jeffrey J. Kanne, President & Chief Executive
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**Charles K. Nulsen III, President
Washington Property Company**

**Thomas L. Regnell, President & CEO
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**Victoria Davis, Managing Partner
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**Robert Gilbane, Chairman and CEO
Gilbane Development Company**

**Ted Holt, Vice-President Mid-Atlantic Region
Gilbane Building Company**

**David Hillman, Chairman and CEO
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**Jeffrey E. Berman, Vice President
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**Ginanne M. Italiano, President & CEO
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