



purple line maryland what were original estimates and timelines vs. actual results and revised estimates on costs

AI Overview

The Maryland Purple Line, a 16.2-mile light-rail project from Bethesda to New Carrollton, was originally slated for completion in 2022 with a total project cost of approximately **\$5.6 billion**. It is now expected to open in **December 2027** with a total budget that has ballooned to over **\$9.7 billion**, with construction costs alone rising by more than \$1.4 billion due to disputes and delays.

Original Estimates vs. Actuals (approximate):

- **Original Timeline:** Groundbreaking in 2017 with service starting in 2022.
- **Revised Timeline:** Anticipated completion now set for 2027.
- **Original Cost:** ~\$5.6 billion (total 36-year contract, including design, construction, operation, and maintenance).
- **Revised Cost:** ~\$9.7 billion (total 30-year contract following restructuring).

Key Causes for Cost and Time Overruns:

- **Contractor Withdrawal:** The original construction team left in 2020 due to mounting disputes and delays, causing a significant, costly pause.
- **Construction Complications:** Significant delays included a \$187.7 million, five-month delay for a "crash wall" requested by CSX, alongside complex utility relocation.
- **Financing Changes:** The replacement contract for new construction significantly increased overall financing costs, resulting in over \$4 billion in total overruns.

As of early 2024, the project was reported to be roughly 65% complete, with significant construction still underway.

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A history timeline of the ups and downs of the Purple Line

Sep 16, 2020 — April 2020 — Purple Line Transit Partners says it will need an additional five...

Bethesda Magazine

Utility Work Adds to Maryland Purple Line Schedule, Costs - ENR

Mar 5, 2024 — The cost to design and build the line has nearly doubled from its original \$2-billi...

Engineering News-Record (ENR)

Purple Line (Maryland) - Wikipedia

In 2016, a consortium headed by Fluor Enterprises won the \$5.6 billion PPP contract t...

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