

Harry Sanders dies; activist led Purple Line campaign

By [Katherine Shaver](#)

Washington Post Staff Writer
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Harry Sanders, 63, a retired federal computer analyst and Montgomery County transit activist who led the campaign for an east-west rail link through the Maryland suburbs that eventually became the Purple Line project, died March 10 at Casey House hospice in Rockville of complications from kidney cancer.

Mr. Sanders, who lived in Silver Spring, co-founded the Action Committee for Transit in 1986 to rally public support for a trolley line between Bethesda and Silver Spring. The Maryland Transit Administration later expanded county plans for the four-mile trolley line into a 16-mile light rail Purple Line linking Maryland's spokes of the Metro system between Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

The state has begun to seek federal funding for the \$1.68 billion project.

In 2002, Mr. Sanders co-founded the Coalition to Build the Inner Purple Line, and in 2007, he helped expand the group into Purple Line NOW, a coalition of business, environmental and civic groups. He was Purple Line NOW's president at the time of his death.

Although Mr. Sanders was a purple-shirted fixture at rallies, fellow advocates said the mild-mannered activist was most effective behind the scenes, quietly pressing government officials about the project's progress, particularly when the state's Purple Line plans stalled in the 1990s.

Henry Kay, the MTA's deputy administrator for planning and engineering, said Mr. Sanders encouraged planners under then-Gov. Parris N. Glendening (D) to "think big" about expanding an east-west rail line beyond Montgomery.

"I think he saw the potential to link together communities all across the inner Beltway corridor," Kay said. "He was always there to remind us of how important that was."

The Purple Line has been controversial because under the state's chosen route between Bethesda and Silver Spring, trains would run along a popular jogging and biking trail, which would require cutting hundreds of mature trees. Opponents say a transit line would destroy the trail's wooded, park-like feel to benefit developers planning to build around future Purple Line stations.

Mr. Sanders, an avid walker, said he believed building a transit line would help complete the Bethesda-to-Silver Spring gravel trail as an extension of the paved Capital Crescent trail, friends said. He said transit lines focus growth and offer alternatives to driving, particularly for lower-income people.



Fellow Advocates saw Harry Sanders as a mild-mannered activist who was most effective behind the scenes. (Courtesy Of Purple Line Now)

"He saw [transit] as the key to a different kind of community that was more livable," said Ben Ross, president of Action Committee for Transit. "That was a much less widespread view 25 years ago than it is now."

Webb Smedley, a board member for Purple Line NOW, said Mr. Sanders was also active in the revitalization of downtown Silver Spring and pushed in the late 1980s for sidewalks to be installed near the Silver Spring Metro station. He was also interested in affordable housing issues and helped the needy through St. Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, family and friends said.

"The thread that tied them all together was a progressive 'help the little guy' outlook toward life," Smedley said. "I think transit just happened to be the issue that he thought he could make his mark on."

Harry Lee Sanders was a native of Springfield, Ill., and a 1968 graduate of the University of Illinois. He moved to the Washington area to work as a computer analyst for the National Security Agency from 1968 to 1976, said his wife, Barbara Marsh Sanders. He then worked as a computer analyst for the U.S. House of Representatives. He retired in 1997.

He also had served as his local Democratic precinct chairman since the early 1980s and as transportation committee chairman for the Montgomery chapter of the League of Women Voters, his wife said.

In addition to his wife, of Silver Spring, survivors include a son, Gregory S. Sanders of Ellicott City; and a sister.

Projection of Gasoline Prices

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Data 3: All Grades, Areas and Formulations

Sourcekey

MG_TT_US
Weekly U.S. All
Grades All
Formulations Retail

Date	Gasoline Prices (Cents per Gallon)	Increase per month (Cents)	Increase per year (Cents)	Percent increase	Projection Year	Projected Price (Cents per Gallon)
Apr 05, 1993	106.8					
May 03, 1993	108.6	1.8				
Jun 07, 1993	110.4	1.8				
Jul 05, 1993	108.6	-1.8				
Aug 02, 1993	106.2	-2.4				
Sep 06, 1993	105.5	-0.7				
Oct 04, 1993	109.2	3.7				
Nov 01, 1993	108.4	-0.8				
Dec 06, 1993	103.6	-4.8			2010	301.9
Jan 03, 1994	99.2	-4.4				
Feb 07, 1994	100.7	1.5				
Mar 07, 1994	100.7	0				
Apr 04, 1994	101.1	0.4				
May 02, 1994	104	2.9				
Jun 06, 1994	106.5	2.5				
Jul 04, 1994	109.7	3.2				
Aug 01, 1994	113	3.3				
Sep 05, 1994	115.6	2.6				
Oct 03, 1994	112	-3.6				
Nov 07, 1994	112.3	0.3				
Dec 05, 1994	112.7	0.4	9.1	8.78%	2011	328.41
Jan 02, 1995	112.7	0				
Feb 06, 1995	112.4	-0.3				
Mar 06, 1995	112.3	-0.1				
Apr 03, 1995	113.3	1				
May 01, 1995	119.4	6.1				
Jun 05, 1995	124.6	5.2				
Jul 03, 1995	122.2	-2.4				
Aug 07, 1995	117.4	-4.8				
Sep 04, 1995	116	-1.4				
Oct 02, 1995	115.1	-0.9				
Nov 06, 1995	111.2	-3.9				
Dec 04, 1995	110.8	-0.4	-1.9	-1.69%	2012	322.86
Jan 01, 1996	112.9	2.1				
Feb 05, 1996	113	0.1				
Mar 04, 1996	117	4				
Apr 01, 1996	122.3	5.3				
May 06, 1996	132.1	9.8				
Jun 03, 1996	131.5	-0.6				
Jul 01, 1996	127.9	-3.6				
Aug 05, 1996	125.3	-2.6				
Sep 02, 1996	124.2	-1.1				
Oct 07, 1996	123.9	-0.3				
Nov 04, 1996	126.8	2.9				
Dec 02, 1996	128.7	1.9	17.9	16.16%	2013	375.03
Jan 06, 1997	127.2	-1.5				
Feb 03, 1997	128.2	1				
Mar 03, 1997	126.1	-2.1				
Apr 07, 1997	124.8	-1.3				
May 05, 1997	123.8	-1				
Jun 02, 1997	125.8	2				
Jul 07, 1997	122.2	-3.6				
Aug 04, 1997	123.7	1.5				
Sep 01, 1997	128.7	5				
Oct 06, 1997	125.4	-3.3				
Nov 03, 1997	122.1	-3.3				
Dec 01, 1997	119.7	-2.4	-9	-6.99%	2014	348.82
Jan 05, 1998	114.8	-4.9				
Feb 02, 1998	110.8	-4				
Mar 02, 1998	107.5	-3.3				
Apr 06, 1998	107.4	-0.1				
May 04, 1998	109.5	2.1				
Jun 01, 1998	110.4	0.9				
Jul 06, 1998	109.7	-0.7				
Aug 03, 1998	107.7	-2				
Sep 07, 1998	104.6	-3.1				
Oct 05, 1998	105.9	1.3				
Nov 02, 1998	105	-0.9				
Dec 07, 1998	99.6	-5.4	-20.1	-16.79%	2015	290.25

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Sourcekey

MG TT US
Weekly U.S. All
Grades All
Formulations Retail

Date	Gasoline Prices (Cents per Gallon)	Increase per month (Cents)	Increase per year (Cents)	Percent increase	Projection Year	Projected Price (Cents per Gallon)
Jan 04, 1999	97.7		-1.9			
Feb 01, 1999	97.1		-0.6			
Mar 01, 1999	95.5		-1.6			
Apr 05, 1999	115.8		20.3			
May 03, 1999	117.6		1.8			
Jun 07, 1999	115.2		-2.4			
Jul 05, 1999	116.5		1.3			
Aug 02, 1999	123.4		6.9			
Sep 06, 1999	128.2		4.8			
Oct 04, 1999	129.6		1.4			
Nov 01, 1999	127.1		-2.5			
Dec 06, 1999	131.3		4.2	31.7	2016	382.64
Jan 03, 2000	131.2		-0.1			
Feb 07, 2000	136.4		5.2			
Mar 06, 2000	153.9		17.5			
Apr 03, 2000	154.3		0.4			
May 01, 2000	146.1		-8.2			
Jun 05, 2000	159.9		13.8			
Jul 03, 2000	166.1		6.2			
Aug 07, 2000	150.4		-15.7			
Sep 04, 2000	156.8		6.4			
Oct 02, 2000	156.3		-0.5			
Nov 06, 2000	156.5		0.2			
Dec 04, 2000	152.6		-3.9	21.3	2017	444.70
Jan 01, 2001	144.6		-8			
Feb 05, 2001	148.3		3.7			
Mar 05, 2001	145.7		-2.6			
Apr 02, 2001	148.2		2.5			
May 07, 2001	173.9		25.7			
Jun 04, 2001	171.5		-2.4			
Jul 02, 2001	152		-19.5			
Aug 06, 2001	141.9		-10.1			
Sep 03, 2001	157.9		16			
Oct 01, 2001	145.5		-12.4			
Nov 05, 2001	124.9		-20.6			
Dec 03, 2001	114.9		-10	-37.7	2018	334.81
Jan 07, 2002	115.2		0.3			
Feb 04, 2002	115.7		0.5			
Mar 04, 2002	118.5		2.8			
Apr 01, 2002	141.2		22.7			
May 06, 2002	143.7		2.5			
Jun 03, 2002	143.3		-0.4			
Jul 01, 2002	143.3		0			
Aug 05, 2002	143.7		0.4			
Sep 02, 2002	143.6		-0.1			
Oct 07, 2002	148		4.4			
Nov 04, 2002	148.9		0.9			
Dec 02, 2002	140.8		-8.1	25.9	2019	410.28
Jan 06, 2003	148.7		7.9			
Feb 03, 2003	156.9		8.2			
Mar 03, 2003	172.6		15.7			
Apr 07, 2003	167.3		-5.3			
May 05, 2003	155.6		-11.7			
Jun 02, 2003	151.4		-4.2			
Jul 07, 2003	153		1.6			
Aug 04, 2003	157.6		4.6			
Sep 01, 2003	178.6		21			
Oct 06, 2003	161.7		-16.9			
Nov 03, 2003	157.7		-4			
Dec 01, 2003	153.3		-4.4	12.5	2020	446.71
Jan 05, 2004	155.2		1.9			
Feb 02, 2004	166		10.8			
Mar 01, 2004	175.8		9.8			
Apr 05, 2004	182.2		6.4			
May 03, 2004	188.4		6.2			
Jun 07, 2004	207.5		19.1			
Jul 05, 2004	193.9		-13.6			
Aug 02, 2004	193		-0.9			
Sep 06, 2004	189.3		-3.7			

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Oct 04, 2004	198	8.7				
Nov 01, 2004	207.6	9.6				
Dec 06, 2004	195.6	-12	42.3	27.59%	2021	569.96
Jan 03, 2005	182.4	-13.2				
Feb 07, 2005	195.2	12.8				
Mar 07, 2005	204	8.8				
Apr 04, 2005	225.8	21.8				
May 02, 2005	227.7	1.9				
Jun 06, 2005	215.9	-11.8				
Jul 04, 2005	226.8	10.9				
Aug 01, 2005	233.5	6.7				
Sep 05, 2005	311.7	78.2				
Oct 03, 2005	297.5	-14.2				
Nov 07, 2005	242.4	-55.1				
Dec 05, 2005	219.1	-23.3	23.5	12.01%	2022	638.42
Jan 02, 2006	228.1	9				
Feb 06, 2006	238.8	10.7				
Mar 06, 2006	237.3	-1.5				
Apr 03, 2006	263.1	25.8				
May 01, 2006	296.6	33.5				
Jun 05, 2006	293.7	-2.9				
Jul 03, 2006	297.9	4.2				
Aug 07, 2006	308.3	10.4				
Sep 04, 2006	277.7	-30.6				
Oct 02, 2006	236	-41.7				
Nov 06, 2006	224.6	-11.4				
Dec 04, 2006	234.2	9.6	15.1	6.89%	2023	682.40
Jan 01, 2007	238.2	4				
Feb 05, 2007	223.7	-14.5				
Mar 05, 2007	255.1	31.4				
Apr 02, 2007	275.3	20.2				
May 07, 2007	309.7	34.4				
Jun 04, 2007	320	10.3				
Jul 02, 2007	300.5	-19.5				
Aug 06, 2007	288.8	-11.7				
Sep 03, 2007	284	-4.8				
Oct 01, 2007	283.8	-0.2				
Nov 05, 2007	306	22.2				
Dec 03, 2007	311.3	5.3	77.1	32.92%	2024	907.05
Jan 07, 2008	315.9	4.6				
Feb 04, 2008	303	-12.9				
Mar 03, 2008	321.2	18.2				
Apr 07, 2008	338.1	16.9				
May 05, 2008	366.3	28.2				
Jun 02, 2008	402.6	36.3				
Jul 07, 2008	416.5	13.9				
Aug 04, 2008	393.5	-23				
Sep 01, 2008	373.3	-20.2				
Oct 06, 2008	354.3	-19				
Nov 03, 2008	246.2	-108.1				
Dec 01, 2008	187	-59.2	-124.3	-39.93%	2025	544.86
Jan 05, 2009	173.7	-13.3				
Feb 02, 2009	194.4	20.7				
Mar 02, 2009	198.8	4.4				
Apr 06, 2009	209	10.2				
May 04, 2009	212.9	3.9				
Jun 01, 2009	257.2	44.3				
Jul 06, 2009	266.6	9.4				
Aug 03, 2009	261	-5.6				
Sep 07, 2009	264.2	3.2				
Oct 05, 2009	252.3	-11.9				
Nov 02, 2009	274.6	22.3				
Dec 07, 2009	268.9	-5.7	81.9	43.80%	2026	783.52
Jan 04, 2010	271.8	2.9				
Feb 01, 2010	271.7	-0.1				
Mar 01, 2010	275.6	3.9				
Mar 08, 2010	280.4					

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Formulations Retail

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Increased \$0.15 a gallon on average per year during the last 10 years.

Yearly increases averaged \$0.33 a gallon.

In 2006 the change in per gallon price was \$0.15.

In 2008 the change in per gallon price was -\$1.24.

Question: How are people going to get to work @\$7.84 per gallon?

Question: How are metropolitan areas like Washington DC going to get their food @ \$7.84 per gallon?

NOTE: The above projection is very, very conservative.

As the supply of oil decreases the rate of increase in the price of gasoline can be expected to excelerate.