

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
September 12, 2013**

Abbreviations

BRT = Bus Rapid Transit  
FEIS = Final Environmental Impact Statement  
MCDOT = Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation  
MSHA = Maryland State Highway Administration



**Items 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Minute Review/Chair’s Comments:** Vice Chair **Jim Bunch** called the meeting to order, and members and guests introduced themselves. **Beth Dennard**, the new Commuter Services Marketing Specialist for Countywide East was welcomed to the Committee.

**Mr. Bunch** announced that the County Council will host a public comment session regarding the County’s bus rapid transit (BRT) project on September 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Council Office Building, third floor hearing room. **Mr. Bunch** also said that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Purple Line is available online at: <http://www.purplelinemd.com/en/studies-reports/feis-document>

**VOTE: July’s minutes were approved with changes**

**Item 4 – Briefing, Fenton Street Pedestrian Safety Audit:** **Andrew Bossi** of Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) explained that the Pedestrian Safety Audits focus on particular sections of roadway and are analyzed from a pedestrian perspective, looking at the history of crashes in one mile segments. The audit researches where more frequent pedestrian-vehicle collisions are occurring and what treatments can improve safety and walkability. The current safety audit is looking at Fenton Street between Cameron Street and Wayne Avenue.

**Mr. Bossi** explained the safety audit process:

- A stakeholder meeting is held with transportation agencies and the community to discuss their personal experiences, where they see problems and solutions.
- A small audit team is comprised of independent members from different agencies to do a walk through of the corridor, identifying the factors that cause collisions, and discussing options to resolve or ameliorate hazardous conditions.
- The audit team generates a report, and another stakeholder meeting compiles a list of recommendations.
- The recommendations list is broken down into three general priorities:
  - Immediate term – Maintenance such as tree trimming and light bulb replacement. This is usually done prior to report generation.
  - Short term (1-3 years) – Projects such as resurfacing may be completed within the fiscal year instead of the 1-3 year duration
  - Longer term (years to decades) – projects completed as part of the master plan process; however, pedestrian issues are more detailed and operational than the master planning process.

The three hour stakeholder meeting was held at the Silver Spring Civic Center with 30-40 attendees. Members from the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, the Urban District, Arts & Entertainment District, and TMD Advisory Committee were in attendance.

The audit will be scheduled late September or early October. A few months following, an additional stakeholder meeting will be held.

**Mr. Bossi** gave a summary of the issues raised by stakeholders:

- Entering and exiting issues at the Cameron Street garage
- Sight line issues with crosswalks on Cameron Street, north and south of garage
- Issues with U-turns on Fenton between Cameron and Colesville streets
- Reversible lanes on Colesville
- Roeder Road – cars not stopping at crosswalk. Possible resurfacing brick crosswalks with high visibility crosswalks
- Ellsworth and Fenton - no police crash reports although people routinely cross against the light. Suggestion of a “Barnes Dance” signal that stops traffic in all directions
- Fenton between Ellsworth and Wayne – cars not stopping at the mid block crossing, signage issues
- Driver confusion coming out of Whole Foods parking lot – left lane drops out
- Issues with turning vehicles made more complicated with the Purple Line and Silver Spring Library coming on board

**Mr. Bossi** explained that although the audit is primarily pedestrian focused, cyclists benefit as well; especially with Capital Bikeshare starting in the County.

Information on previous audits, such as the Colesville Rd. audit, can be found on the County’s website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/walk](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/walk).

There was discussion regarding collecting ped traffic data during festivals and late evenings.

**Item 5 – TMD recommendation letters:** **Mr. Bunch** reported that the Committee submitted letters of support for The Blairs and United Therapeutics developments. The Blairs letter stated recommendations to MCDOT regarding pedestrian safety, such as providing better access to the development along East West Highway and Colesville Road. The Blairs will move the East West entrance slightly west and safety issues regarding the current traffic signal will be examined. There were no specific recommendations in the United Therapeutics letter. However, it was suggested that their traffic mitigation plan be updated to include electric charging stations, real time transit information displays and a bikeshare station.

The Committee discussed confusion regarding having to go through MCDOT to communicate with the Maryland State Highway Authority (MSHA) on issues related to State roads instead of corresponding with the agency directly. It was explained that the Committee’s main purpose is to advise the County Council and Executive, not outside agencies.

**Phil Olivetti** commented that it seemed disingenuous to have MSHA or other agencies at Committee meetings and be able to speak to them directly, yet not able to communicate by ‘official’ correspondence.

**Ms. Brecher** reiterated that there needs to be a consensus between the Committee and the Executive branch before communicating with an outside agency. Advisory committees also express to the County Executive the range of views from the community. Since the Executive branch deals directly with outside agencies, the mission of the Committee is to provide advice and allow the Executive to decide how to share information with others.

Some members expressed concern that County officials are not listening to the Committee and wanted better two-way communication. It was suggested that all letters and responses be posted on the website.

Committee members discussed the need to have a better focus on overall transportation safety and other matters – such as bus circulation, pedestrian access, better signage maintenance and bikeshare – in light of the continued delay in opening the transit center.

There have been no updates on the transit center for some time. **Ms. Brecher** clarified that the continuing news ‘black out’ regarding transit center construction is due to ongoing legal issues.

**Item 6 – Updates: Ms. Brecher reported:**

- The first Capital Bikeshare stations have been installed – not operational until formal launch this month; 51 stations total to be installed
- Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) bikeshare program for low income residents was expanded to include all residents in Montgomery County
- Montgomery County residents can now join Capital Bikeshare at [www.CapitalBikeshare.com](http://www.CapitalBikeshare.com).
- Pedestrian safety needs volunteers for safety outreach for new Street Smart campaign – training sessions next Wednesday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Car Free Day(s) – September 20-22. CSS and contractors will host events at selected Metro stations on Friday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Silver Spring Car Free Day is from 6:30 to 9:00 AM.
- Park(ing) Day, also Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> – converts parking spaces into green space for the day
- Walk and Ride Campaign – September 9-27 / 32 teams have signed up in Silver Spring
- Photo shoots for bikeshare stations scheduled

**Item 7 – Around the Room:**

- More discussion on the latex concrete used for the transit center repairs
- Input for the Purple Line impact statement may be extended beyond the 30-day community comment period
- **Reemberto Rodriguez** discussed having meetings regarding Silver Spring redevelopment and the use of public space for celebrations and bringing the community together
- October 5<sup>th</sup> is the Green Festival celebration
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – Night time economy task force briefing at 7 pm at the Civic Center
- Georgia Avenue resurfacing
- Discussion on finding a replacement for **Sgt. Harmon**
- Bike Safety classes – “City Cycling” by WABA

**Adjourn – Next Meeting: October 10, 2013**

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet  
September 12, 2013**

| <b>Voting Members (12)</b>                     |                                  |                |               |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Name</b>                                    | <b>Affiliation</b>               | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Chamber Members (3)</b>                     |                                  |                |               |
| Arnetta Haines                                 | Social and Scientific Systems    |                | X             |
| Michael Meszaros                               | Digital Industry, Inc.           | X              |               |
| Samantha Mazo / Co-chair                       | Linowes and Blocher LLP          |                | X             |
| <b>Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)</b>     |                                  |                |               |
| Jim Bunch                                      | Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS | X              |               |
| Phil Olivetti                                  | North & West Sector Plan Area    | X              |               |
| Andrew Wexler / Co-chair                       | CBD Resident                     | X              |               |
| <b>Employers less than 50 employees (3)</b>    |                                  |                |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| Everton Latty                                  | iDeal Decisions, Inc.            | X              |               |
| Valerie Spencer                                | MayaTech                         | X              |               |
| <b>Employers with 50 or more employees (3)</b> |                                  |                |               |
| G. Michael Price                               | Discovery Communications         | X              |               |
| Molly King                                     | The Blairs                       |                | X             |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| <b>Non-Voting Members (3)</b>                  |                                  |                |               |
| Sandra Brecher, DOT Transit Services           | DOT Director or Designee         | X              |               |
| Matthew Folden                                 | M-NCPPC                          | X              |               |
| Reemberto Rodriguez                            | Silver Spring Regional Center    | X              |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| <b>Staff</b>                                   |                                  |                |               |
| Nakengi Byrd                                   | DOT, Commuter Services           | X              |               |
| Jim Carlson                                    | DOT, Commuter Services           | X              |               |
| Beth Dennard                                   | DOT, Commuter Services           | X              |               |
| <b>Guests</b>                                  |                                  |                |               |
| Andrew Bossi                                   | MCDOT                            | X              |               |
| Harriet Quinn                                  | 4-Corners Resident               | X              |               |
|  |                                  |                |               |
|  |                                  |                |               |
|  |                                  |                |               |
|  |                                  |                |               |
|  |                                  |                |               |
|  |                                  |                |               |
|  |                                  |                |               |
|  |                                  |                |               |