

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
November 18, 2014**

Voting Members

James Calderwood	Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers
Barbara Condos	(Vice Chair) Town of Somerset
Joe Dixon	GEICO
Campbell Graeub	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association
Cobey R. Kuff	WP Project Developer, LLC
John Mertens	Friendship Heights Village
Rachael Schacherer	Friendship Heights Village

Non-voting Members

Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
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TMD Staff

Jim Carlson	MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services

Absent

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services
Matthew Folden	M-NCPPC
Tiffany Gee (Chair)	Chevy Chase Land Company
Kenneth Hartman	B-CC Services Center

Guests

Tim Balinskas	Wells+Associates
Moiria Bindner	Wells+Associates
Miti Figueredo	Chevy Chase Land Company
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Julian Mansfield	Village of Friendship Heights
Jeffrey Slavin	Mayor – Town of Somerset

Abbreviations:

MCDOT = Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation

MSHA = Maryland State Highway Administration

TMP=Traffic Mitigation Plan

Item 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Agenda Review/Chair Comments: October meeting minutes were approved.

Item 4 – Wisconsin Avenue Parking Meters: The Committee discussed the issue of installing parking meters on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue, to be used during off-peak hours.

Christopher Itteilag said he does not see the need for parking meters on Wisconsin Avenue, as there is already plenty of parking available underground and behind The Collection. He said it also may cause a midblock crossing hazard at Wisconsin by interfering with driver and pedestrian sight lines, and more traffic congestion. Furthermore, it may encourage drivers to divert to side streets and Somerset Terrace – a private entryway with a public access easement used for access to Somerset Condominiums. **Mr. Itteilag** explained that drivers frequently use Somerset Terrace throughout the day. Additional traffic will likely cause more congestion and put pedestrians at greater risk.

John Mertens expressed approval of meters, saying the midblock crossing should not be a problem because traffic lights at both ends of the block in question are timed to stop traffic in both directions when pedestrians cross Wisconsin. He added, however, that better traffic enforcement is needed.

Other members of the Committee also expressed their belief that the meters would not seriously impede the current northbound traffic on Wisconsin during off-peak travel times. Members also noted that the meters could be easily removed if they were found to create problems.

Jim Carlson referred to a 2013 study done by the Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) showing the average daily traffic for selected portions of Wisconsin Avenue. He noted that Bethesda has slightly more traffic than Friendship Heights (40,711 vs. 37,331), also has meters on Wisconsin, and has a manageable level of congestion.

Other points discussed:

- A reiteration of the mission of the TMD not to ensure a speedy traffic flow but to promote pedestrian safety and access and to promote alternative modes of transportation.
- The possibility of Wisconsin Avenue metered parking causing vehicles to cut through the Village of Friendship Heights on side streets, likely occurring at the Jenifer Street NW and Friendship Boulevard intersection.
- **Jim Carlson** suggested waiting for Chair **Tiffany Gee** to return before taking a formal vote on meters; however, a majority of Committee members elected to go forward with a vote.
- A clarification of the legal distinction between ‘No Parking’ and ‘No Standing’ rules.
- Revenue from parking partially funds enforcement, done in most cases by a private contractor.
- The suggestion of installing parking on a trial basis and review again within a year.

VOTE: The Committee unanimously voted to install parking meters on Friendship Blvd and Willard Ave.

VOTE: The Committee voted to install parking meters on Wisconsin Avenue-1 opposed

Parking meters will be installed when there is warmer weather and payment options (pay by phone & coin operated) included in recommendation to Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) Director. **Mr. Itteilag** voted against motion.

Item 5 – Commuter Services Updates: Mr. Carlson announced:

- MCDOT Director, **Arthur Holmes, Jr.**, is retiring in December. Deputy Director **Al R. Roshdieh** will be Acting Director.

Tim Balinkas, Wells+Associates, announced:

- Commuter Information Day event to be held at Chase Tower, 5454 Wisconsin Avenue, during the coming week
- They are currently assessing businesses in the Commuter Services database to see if they fall under the mandate to submit a Traffic Mitigation Plan (TMP)

Other announcements:

- The Westbard Sector Plan proposal will be presented at Westland Middle School – the charette process will be explained

Item 6 - Around the Room:

- **Mr. Mertens** said that more efficient bus service would be preferable to either street cars or the Purple Line. He said buses are cheaper and more efficient than installing tracks.
Other issues of discussion:
- The “No Red Turn” sign on the west corner of Willard and Wisconsin is faded
- Broken fence on the median at Wisconsin Circle should be made into a crosswalk – the Friendship Heights Sector plan did recommend a crosswalk at this location, but was not built in order to discourage mid-block crossings. However Chevy Chase Land Co. has no issue with installing one, should that be decided at some point
- Delivery trucks are blocking a lane at 2 Wisconsin Circle (directly behind the bus station) causing traffic back ups – the pull-in lane was shortened due to handicap access accommodations

Item 7 – Adjourn: Next Meeting Dec. 9th