

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
April 12, 2016**

Voting Members

Barbara Condos (Vice Chair)	Town of Somerset
Joe Dixon	GEICO
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
Campbell Graeb	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
John Mertens	Friendship Heights Village
Charles Simpson	Chevy Chase Village

Non-voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
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TMD Staff

Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
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Absent

Tiffany L. Anderson (Chair)	Chevy Chase Land Company
Jim Carlson	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Charles Crerand	CBRE Asset Services/Wisconsin Place
Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
Matthew Folden	M-NCPPC
Kenneth Hartman	B-CC Services Center
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association

Guests

Emily Davis	Sharp & Co.
Joanna Foellmer	Willard Ave Resident
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News

Abbreviations:

- BRT = Bus Rapid Transit
- NADMS = Non-Auto Driver Mode Share
- SHA = State Highway Administration

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes: Vice Chair **Barbara Condos** called meeting to order and members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting minutes were tabled for lack of quorum.

Item 3 – Chair Comments: Ms. Condos reported:

- Plans for adding of a third right turn lane on River Road at Little Falls Parkway, considered for the Westbard Sector Plan study, was dropped by County Council. Town of Somerset residents were concerned traffic would block the entrance to Greystone Street.

- The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system is being studied by an advisory committee:
 - Public meetings on April 28 @ Bethesda Chevy Chase High School and May 3 @ Gaithersburg HS, 6:30-8:30pm.

Guest **Joanna Foellmer**, 50 year Willard Avenue resident, expressed concerns about loud noise levels due to constant digging on Willard Avenue. She reported that the same spot continued to be dug up, for reasons that were unclear, and that there was a lack of coordination between the utility companies, State Highway Administration (SHA) and the County during construction projects. Additional concerns:

- Bright lights and jackhammer noise at night from 9 pm to 5 am.
- A lack of equity – Ms. Foellmer stated that she pays the same property tax as her neighbor who owns an 8-bedroom house although her home is much smaller.
- **Sande Brecher** will follow up regarding the lack of coordination between the County, SHA and utilities.
- **Ms. Foellmer** explained she spent \$16,500 to build a driveway due to Metro allowing parking access to commuters on her street. She thanked the County for reversing Metro’s decision.
- **Campbell Graeub** reported that the mid-block crossing on Friendship Boulevard has a pedestrian crossing sign and tripods laying on the ground. **Ms. Brecher** asked to have the 311 request number sent to her, combined with **Barbara Tauben’s** letter documenting that SHA said repairs would be made back in 2008, in an effort to have action taken immediately.

Ms. Condos announced that she attended the FY17 Budget Priority meeting with the County Executive.

Item 4 – TMD Project Matrix Review: **Ms. Brecher** asked the Committee to update the project matrix. Some issues discussed:

- The need for Metro improvements – providing funding for repairs to improve lighting, signage.
- **Ms. Brecher** announced new legislation increasing the Maryland Employer Tax Credit from \$50/month to a max of \$100/month per employee for employer-provided transit and vanpool costs. Bikeshare benefits remain \$25 does not qualify as tax-free.
- **Emily Davis** from Sharp & Co. announced that staff was visiting GEICO to explain Metro’s new program “Metro Select”. **Ms. Brecher** will also attend to discuss telework and other benefits.
- The Committee discussed the taxicab issue – Chevy Chase Center site plan will deal with short- and long-term parking, and move the taxi stand on Wisconsin Circle closer to Wisconsin Avenue to improve visibility of the stand and pedestrian access.
- Pedestrian safety issues were discussed, with suggestions for signal activation and lighting improvements.
- **Ms. Brecher** reviewed survey results in the Friendship Heights TMD. There were more than 600 responses to the survey – the “Non Auto-Driver Mode Share (NADMS) was 39 percent the for 2-hour peak period, 37 percent for the 3-hour peak. The NADMS goal for the TMD is 39 percent.

Updates:

- Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 20th

Item 5 Adjourn: Next meeting date – May 10, 2016