

**Silver Spring
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
July 10, 2014**

2c

Definitions:

ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act

HOC = Housing Opportunities Commission

IOS = Interim Operating Site

MCDOT = Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation

MSHA = Maryland Dept. of Transportation

Item 1,2&3 – Introductions/Minutes Approval/Chair Comments: Chair **Samantha Mazo** called meeting to order. Members and guest introduced themselves. **Jim Carlson** presented **Ms. Mazo** with a Certificate of Thanks from the **County Executive** for her support on Bike to Work Day, May 16.

Since she did not attend June's meeting, **Ms. Mazo** asked for comments regarding the presentations on The Blairs and Elizabeth Square developments. The opinions expressed were positive. She asked that the Committee draft a letter of support for Elizabeth House because the development will support a transit oriented community.

The project has a special Federal Housing and Urban Development demonstration grant which requires a speedy response on the part of the developer. The grant infuses Federal funds into Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) housing for seniors and mixed income communities.

VOTE: The Committee voted to send letter of support for the Blairs Redevelopment.

VOTE: The Committee voted to send letter of support for the Elizabeth Square development.

Item 4 – VanGo Route and Schedule Changes: **Reemberto Rodriguez** announced that on July 22nd at 7 pm there will be a public meeting discussing the VanGo expansion at the Civic Building in Silver Spring. **Mr. Rodriguez** explained that due to the efforts of the Committee, the Silver Spring Chamber and Council Members extra funding was provided to expand VanGo hours to 7 am-12 am Monday – Thursday and 7 am-2 am Friday and Saturday to better serve the growing night time economy. Since the route has not been decided, a joint meeting with advisory group representatives may draft a letter proposing a different plan to better serve the night time community. Other information presented:

- The current VanGo route can be found online at rideonbus.com; Route 28
- VanGo expansion is planned for a January rollout
- The Arts and Entertainment would like to have the bus redesigned to capture its former unique appearance, or similar eye-catching motif
- VanGo bus distinctive purple design was replaced due to mechanical defect causing them to catch fire – replacement buses are drab and less noticeable to riders
- Funding is for two buses only, since the current third bus in use is financed by the transit center Interim Operating Site (IOS), added for compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Ms. Mazo suggested that Committee wait to weigh in on VanGo route since no one knows the route currently for comparison.

Mr. Rodriguez also announced:

- July 17th Civic Center a presentation from Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) Pedestrian Safety Coordinator **Jeff Duncel**; Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) engineer **Anyesha Mookherjee**; and Ride-On route planners regarding pedestrian mobility issues in downtown Silver Spring, including Fenton Street resurfacing.
- Purple Line Advisory Group will announce the release the contract chosen to construct project.

Item 5 – Sharp and Co.: **Mr. Carlson** introduced **Moira Bindner** from Sharp and Company, who will assist Commuter Services with marketing outreach to employers in Silver Spring. **Ms. Bindner** explained that her team started at the end of June taking inventory of business in the downtown Silver Spring area and updating the database with contact information. Currently, they are promoting the upcoming Walk and Ride Challenge. In addition to contacting large employers, they are also reaching out to property managers of office buildings. Their purpose is to disseminate transit information to employers in a fun way.

Item 6 – Updates:

- Bike to College and Car Free Day – September 22
- Commuter Services contractor Sharp and Co. will be conducting Capital Bikeshare outreach at selected stations
- Discussion regarding Public Bike Share Corporation (PBSC) from Montreal, which was bought out of bankruptcy and has slowed enrollment due to bikeshare key fob software
- Discussion regarding the slow acceptance of bikes on roads in America as opposed to European countries that have embraced biking and have the political will to make biking a safe alternative
- Discussion on biking issues such as cyclists not following traffic laws (citing “Bicyclist as Terrorist” article in the Washington Post), comfort level of cyclist and motorist, real estate, signage, education issues
- Announcement: Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) Montgomery County Advocacy Committee is working to install a bike lane connecting the Capital Crescent Trail to the Bethesda Trolley trail.
- FY16 budget cycle is underway

VOTE: Committee voted to submit budget items for FY16 budget. The Committee would like the County Executive to provide funding for the following items:

- VanGo buses including the third bus when Transit Center opens
- VanGo marketing funds
- Ped & Bike safety study
- Capital Bikeshare

Item 7 – Around the Room: Molly King from the Blairs was updated on the Committee’s actions regarding The Blairs Redevelopment project.

Ms. King announced the opening of a Bike Lounge for Blair residents and noted a bike station pit stop that is for the public.

Adjourn: Next meeting September 11, 2014

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet
July 10, 2014**

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Arnetta Haines	Social and Scientific Systems	X	
Michael Meszaros	Digital Industry, Inc.	X	
Samantha Mazo / Chair	Linowes and Blocher LLP	X	
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Jim Bunch / Vice Chair	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS		X
Phil Olivetti	North & West Sector Plan Area	X	
Andrew Wexler	CBD Resident	X	
Employers less than 50 employees (3)			
Valerie Spencer	MayaTech	X	
Everton Latty	iDeal Decisions, Inc.	X	
Wendy Melis	SWANA	X	
Employers with 50 or more employees (3)			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications		X
Molly King	The Blairs	X	
Vacant			
Non-Voting Members (3)			
Sandra Brecher, DOT-Commuter Services	MCDOT Director or Designee	X	
Matthew Folden	M-NCPPC		X
Reemberto Rodriguez	Silver Spring Regional Center	X	
Sgt. Michael Ruane	Montgomery County Police		X
Staff			
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
Jim Carlson	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
Beth Dennard	MCDOT-Commuter Services		X
Guests			
Moira Bindner	Sharp & Company	X	
Kate Meyer Olson	Silver Spring Resident	X	
Justin Schor	Sharp & Company	X	
Christina Washington	Sharp & Company	X	