

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
September 12, 2024**

**Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minute Review: Jim Carlson** called meeting to order and members and guests introduced themselves.

**January minutes were approved**

**Item 3 – Georgia Avenue Tactical Bus Lanes: Sande Brecher** reported that the tactical bus lanes are on Georgia Ave. from 16<sup>th</sup> street to Wayne Ave. and Studies have shown a 15 percent reduction in travel time as they help to reduce NADMS goals. The pilot is to extend till the end of the year. Today’s discussion is to address issues with the bus lanes such as clarity on parking, rules and benefits of the pilot in light of an incident involving a cab being ticketed while assisting mobility impaired patrons into a hair salon. **Ms. Brecher** comments continued:

- Ticket issued in accordance with the law by Silver Spring Parking Enforcement
- No back parking entrance to the salon was available
- Right turns only are allowed in lanes, no parking or standing during peak hours
- Finding ways to circulate information to the community regarding lane rules – working with State Highway Administration & Metro to achieve goals in transit improvements and community involvement

**Carson Henry** explained that there is no rear entrance to the salon or small businesses along that block of Georgia Avenue, which is very traffic congested. The small businesses need a place for short term parking and temporary loading since the nearest garage (#7) is 1 ½ blocks away, which is difficult for mobility impaired persons, not a natural choice for patron parking since it is off the beaten path.

**Stephanie Helsing** commented that there is a narrow alleyway that does not provide for parking as there have been complaints that trash trucks not getting through. Business are not happy with the pilot, saying patrons are going elsewhere. She sees lack of enforcement as cars are in the bus lanes when she commutes to and from work along the artery.

Discussion continued:

- Discrepancy regarding bus lane time operations, till 10 pm or during peak rush hour only- need to disseminate correct information to the Business Chamber and regional service centers.
- There are bagged meters and enforcement of the bus lanes with 132 citations issued.
- Clearing up driver confusion regarding “No parking anytime vs. Standing” as parking means when you leave your vehicle even if car is running - is it good judgement to enforce bus lanes when assisting mobility impaired patrons?
- Confirming bus lane hours of operation, rules, issues, improving signage, about the bus lanes for longer term master plan envisioning for the BRT.
- A key to making urban center NSDMS goals is addressing the disruptions and communication to the surrounding Community.

Committee comments continued:

- Suggestion to exempt the two blocks downtown to reduce business impact, as this is the most congested portion of the bus lanes that will cause lost time in the long run- can explore the option, but is it realistic since the lanes are needed to improve connection to transit?
- The bus lanes are not much of an issue for those who are not mobility impaired and there is a need to assess the impact on buses and drivers with quantitative data while making ADA accommodations.
- Right lane parking complaints due to Uber eats and collecting quantitative data.
- The bus lanes have decreased travel time 15 percent, helping to get employees to work sooner.
- The difficulty in collecting data for mobility impaired persons.
- The bus lanes pilot will be ending by years-end; a report based on collection of data such as traffic & safety counts will be issued when pilot concludes.
- Utilizing how ADA issues are addressed in other areas and how that determines where people live.
- Using an entity to visually document the bus lanes impact to objectively obtain data such as traffic accident data – anecdotally, fewer traffic accidents are reported.

Discussion continued regarding residents without a car being attracted to the downtown Silver Spring area due to access & convenience services such as Uber eats, which deliveries may block traffic and bus lanes. The tickets received from infractions are figured as the cost of doing business. As parking will always be an issue in downtown Silver Spring, ADA focus groups are needed to provide access to mobility impaired persons.

Discussion concluded:

- Vehicles like Uber & Lyft are not considered ridesharing but ride haling
- Delivery services prefer not to utilize the loading docks as it will slow service-tickets cost of doing business.
- Next meeting will provide a follow up with the County’s disability representative.

**Item 4 – Metro Update: Corey Pitts** reported:

- Metro’s customer satisfaction has increased more on the bus side than the rail, as crime and fare evasion is on the decline - sting on Metro fare evasion.
- Creating a reserve rainy day fund.
- Making clearer the subsidy formula for the jurisdiction payments as ridership in jurisdictions increase payments should decrease.
- Research on Metro and base crime in the community has found that 80 percent of area crime was due to fare jumpers from area Metro stops.

**Item 5 – Employer TDM Plans/Annual Reports: Mr. Carlson** submitted TDM plans for Committee review, approval, and submission to DOT Director for approval.

**Item 6 – Updates:**

- Car Free Day on Sept. 23rd and the Walk & Ride Challenge coming up
- CIDs at Giant, SS Metro and Ellsworth Drive
- Capital Bikeshare & Ride-On Free on Car Free Day
- Walk & Ride registration open today.
- Phase 1 of the new Great Seneca bus service Pink & Lime lines opened today.
- New bus service between Tysons and Bethesda opens September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Joint Chamber meeting of Hispanic & Kensington Chambers
- Thanksgiving parade is earlier this year on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: November 14, 2024**

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet  
September 12, 2024**

<b>Voting Members (12)</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Chamber Members (3)</b>			
Vacant			
Vacant			
Vacant			
<b>Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)</b>			
Harriet Quinn	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Vacant	North & West Sector Plan Area		
Chris Perry	CBD Resident	X	
<b>Employers less than 50 employees (3)</b>			
Eric Donald	Main Engineering / Small Business	X	
Shanavia McKinney	Innovative Life Healthcare /Small Biz	X	
Vacant			
<b>Employers with 50 or more employees (3)</b>			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Vacant			
Vacant			
<b>Non-Voting Members (3)</b>			
Sandra Brecher, DOT-Commuter Services	MCDOT Director or Designee	X	
Larissa Klevan	M-NCPPC	X	
Jacob Newman	Silver Spring Regional Center	X	
<b>Staff</b>			
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
Jim Carlson	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
<b>Guests</b>			
Jennifer Bolick	TMD Outreach Team - Fovndry	X	
Samuel Damesa	MCDOT		
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Stephanie Helsing	Greater Silver Spring Chamber	X	
Carson Henry	SS Urban District	X	
Kevin Obike	MCDOT	X	
Corey Pitts	MCDOT	X	
Nahom Tekle	SS Community Engagement Cluster	X	
Laura Van Eperen	TMD Outreach Team – Fovndry	X	
Ronnetta Zack-Williams	M-NCPPC	X	