

**Friendship Heights  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
January 14, 2020**

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**Voting Members**

Barbara Condos (Chair)	Town of Somerset
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association
Ahkeeia Payne	GEICO
John Mertens (Vice Chair)	Friendship Heights Village
Afua Ofori	Polinger Co./Large Employer

**Non-Voting Members**

Derrick Harrigan	B-CC Services Center
Katie Mencarini	M-NCPPC

**TMD Staff**

Jim Carlson	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services

**Absent**

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police

**Guests**

Bob Banach	Brookdale/Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Hts.
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Julian Mansfield	Friendship Heights Village
Stephanie Smarr	Chevy Chase Land Co.

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**Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minute Approval:** Chair **Barbara Condos** called meeting to order and members & guests introduction themselves. September’s meeting minutes were approved.

**Item 3 – Metro FY21 Budget & FY21-26 CIP:** MCDOT **Gary Erenrich** presented a summary of Metro proposed budget cuts that are on the docket next Thursday. The proposed cuts must be presented in public hearings for community comment before finalized. He reported that Metro’s focus was repairing the system, which included cutting back operational times to conduct overnight repairs (called Bunch Time) and weekend hour cutbacks. Now there is a need to reinstate rail hour service to assist with the Bus Transformation Study designed to improve bus service. Metro’s board will approve the docket (which consists of the GM’s ideas to balance the budget) before presenting to the public.

**Mr. Erenrich** explained that Maryland’s contribution to operating the Metro system is \$500 million; however, a clause states the jurisdictions contribution increases cannot be over 3 percent compared to the

last fiscal year. There is some confusion in what should be included in the Maryland's contribution such as Metro Access operational costs.

Also discussed:

- Phase I of Silver Line construction caused a financing gap in jurisdiction contributions, resulting in Metro fare increases. The Board findings will see how much Phase II will cost on Thursday.
- Metro is hiring a year in advance to train new employees to fill future work demands of Phase II of system completion – this will be taken into consideration to increase Maryland's contribution from \$431 million to \$438 million.

**Mr. Erenrich** discussed some of the changes include adding more midday bus service to K9 and restoring late night rail service to weekend (Friday/Saturday); however, this is not cost effective as there are not many riders during that time. Metro will pay \$3-\$4 dollars of an Uber/Lyft trip with proof of late working hours. Other proposed changes:

- Starting rail service at 5:30 am not 5:00 am during weekdays, which could impact people arriving late to work.
- Cutting bus routes along the 29 corridor Z2, 8 and 11 and some along the Q route, eliminating service between Rockville and Shady Grove – Ride On can accommodate the service change.
- Raising the \$2.00 base rail fare \$.10 and providing a flat fare during the weekend; also increasing fee when paying cash – however, proposal unlikely to obtain Title 6 approval for equal access to all regardless of income.
- Cutting E6 and D5 routes as they service Friendship Heights station.
- Discussion regarding Prince George's County lack of its own baseline bus system to take up the slack of Metro's cuts, resulting in them being hit harder than Montgomery County.
- Discussion regarding Metro not approving anything omitted from the public hearing process, such as raising the bus fare after no fare increases have been approved; however, increasing Metrorail max fare will allow them to increase the bus by \$.25 if chosen to do so.

**Mr. Erenrich** said the Committee can submit recommendations to the County Executive as well as comment to Metro's Board.

**Item 4 – The Collection Redevelopment:** **Stephanie Smarr** provided an update on The Collection Retail redevelopment. She announced that Giant supermarket closed last week, and that demolition is soon to start on the new grocer; however, she is not at liberty to say who the new occupant will be. They are planning to open sometime late 2020. She addressed rumors of Giant's vacancy, commenting that they did not leave because Chevy Chase Land Company (CCLC) wanted to raise the rent, and that the Giant made the decision due to low sales and a lost customer base. Recent renovations also include:

- Making Giant's parking lot more accessible by keeping the 1-hour free parking, 90-minute validation with 1<sup>st</sup> hour free, easier crossing to new grocer from Wisconsin Circle.
- To keep in new grocers' confidentiality, early filing for building permits will be under CCLC.
- Construction is now complete for restaurants; however, store fronts are still being constructed.
- Restaurants have service-oriented leases for community event collaboration and include - Little Bee Table, Urban Plate, Junction Bistro, Hunters Hound and Peet's coffee.
- Multi-tier plaza seating for outdoor community fairs and festivals.
- Retail leasing commitments are short-term, only for 3-6 months at a time; longer if there is community support.

**Ms. Smarr** discussed the increased parking – the site has over 1,000 parking spaces in the garage and is adding six electric vehicle charging stations. Also discussed:

- Parallel parking lot spaces will be kept to \$1/ hour.
- Marketing campaign to increase drivers to utilize the garage area, as there are four levels of parking available.
- Ourisman uses up to 100 spaces of the CCLC parking area.
- Discussion regarding the difficulties of navigating in and out of the garage.
- Concerns regarding making parking too Metro based, resulting in less spaces available for customers of the shopping center and retail in the area.
- Signage will be readily available.

**Item 5 – Marketing Outreach update:** **Jim Carlson** reported that the County Executive meeting with all the Transportation Management District TMD Advisory Committees went well as all of the different transit projects in Montgomery County (7) were presented - **Barbara Condos** and **Manuel Ochoa** from the Committee were in attendance. Also announced:

- County Council unanimously passed Bill 36-18 for Traffic Mitigation, a reorganization of future development fees based on square footage and location. One of the changes includes making all areas that currently exist outside of TMD's into a County Wide District to collect fees - **Council Member Riemer** made a statement of support for bill.
- **John Mertens** reported on a WAMU radio segment discussing how housing costs cause traffic congestion due to commuters not being able to afford living near their work and the importance of more housing near transit.

**Adjourn: Next meeting March 10, 2020**