

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
January 12, 2021**

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Voting Members

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

Non-Voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Derrick Harrigan	B-CC Services Center
Iftin Thompson	M-NCPPC

TMD Staff

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

Absent

Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
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Guests

Nate Bath	Regency Centers
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT
Kevin Johnson	Regency Centers
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Nadiya Kutishcheva	TMD Outreach
Julian Mansfield	Friendship Heights Village
David Proctor	TMD Outreach
Mayor Jeffrey Slavin	Town of Somerset

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes: Barbra Condos opened the meeting, members and guests introduced themselves. Meeting minutes were tabled.

Item 3 – Metro Update: Gary Erenrich briefed the Committee on Metro operations and the Washington Post article discussing Metro Board of Directors decision to halt pending budgetary cuts. Also reported:

- The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act will provide additional funding for transit due to the pandemic
- Third amendment to retain current service levels with additional funding for supplemental service in areas underserved by transit

- Metro’s budget is balanced until July 2021, then additional funding will be needed to fill budget gaps
- Frozen local subsidies for Metro operating subsidy cannot increase more than three percent a year
- Silverline Phase II initiation to be the first budget item for FY22, which will be a huge hit to Maryland funding
- For the second half of FY22 Metro will need to receive funding to fill budget gap or increase revenue from ridership
- Ridership projections are conservative due to difficulties in forecasting and the inability to request more funding once it has been distributed
- Metro resumed charging in January – Ride On fee collection on hold until plexiglass barriers are installed
- Uptick in fare media sales at the TRiPS and Mobile commuter stores
- Buses currently have greater ridership than Metrorail

Item 4 – Westbard Shopping Center Redevelopment Update: **Nate Bath**, Sr. Investments Manager, Regency Centers, presented an update on the Westbard project. It is a phased plan beginning with the Giant site, which has submitted a site plan and is working toward permits. Construction will start on the site this year and next to follow:

- Road alignment for Westbard Avenue – currently replying to comments for approval
- The Kensington Senior Living in the Westwood II Shopping Center has received site plan approval and is working toward permits
- The Manor Care site – no work started to this phase of townhome sites

Kevin Johnson, Regency Centers, reported they are working with MC Department of Environmental Protection for storm drain & paving permit and State Highway Administration (SHA) for access permit for Westbard realignment – hopeful of plan approval in the next months. Giant will be kept open while construction of the new site for zero downtime; however, the associated shops may see some downtime for the Westwood II site. He suggested coming back in May to give an update with a definitive construction timetable.

Item 5 – Marketing Outreach Updates: **David Proctor** reported:

- Increasing employer outreach to retailers – larger retailers more difficult to reach due to reduced staffing
- Sending e-blast to employers asking for feedback in how communication should be done, sending individual emails to prevent going to spam
- Searching for nominees for the COG Employer Recognition Awards
- Outreach information for Bike To Work Day, TDM Plans – employers have been less response due to holidays
- Walk & Ride Challenge was a success – winning team: Washington Eye Physicians & Surgeons, with average with 513,817 steps
- Starbucks showed interest in joining the TMD AC – meetings open to public and interested companies

Item 6 – County Updates:

- All-TMD meeting on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) will be either Feb.10th or 17th

- CAP draft is on the County's website @ www.montgomerycountymd.gov/climate. The draft is 400 pages – pg.114 starts the Transportation Section and also included is a virtual meeting room
- Electric vehicle (EV) group buy co-op to reduce the cost of vehicle purchasing
- Implementation of Vision Zero 10 year plan goals
- New Capital Bikeshare corporate plan approach to reduce employee membership fees
- Commuter Services Telework webinar next week
- Bike Match program is looking for bike donations – children's bikes also accepted
- Plan review of conversion of Wisconsin Place retail to medical office
- Winterization efforts in Bethesda to stabilize restaurant business as there is no indoor dining; outdoor dining provided by "Shared Streets" initiative

Around the Room: Julian Mansfield reported on turning one lane of Willard Avenue into a dedicated right lane at Friendship Blvd. he will forward more information regarding the request.

Adjourn: Next Meeting March 9, 2021