

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
July 13, 2021**

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
Vacant	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

Gary Erenrich	MCDOT
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: Chair Barbra Condos opened the meeting and members and guests introduced themselves.

Item 3 – Metro Update: Gary Erenrich updated the Committee on Metro operations reporting, that the low ridership due to Covid was saved with Federal funding. Starting in October a 50% discount for fare passes starting after Labor Day and free rail/bus transfer to stimulate ridership. Ride On is continuing with free fares till September 30th after such Transit Division will conduct a Fare Equity Study for recommendations to the County Council regarding the future of fare management. Metro will conduct work sessions to find ways to increase ridership. Also reported:

- On July 17th the Red Line is single tracking at Van Ness
- No train service between Twinbrook and Shady Grove for the Rockville canopy project - CSS to provide transportation alternatives

- Difficult to control the overflow of e-scooters into the Friendship Heights area due to proximity to the District - corrals needed to declutter in the public right of way
- Discussed the banning of micromobility in the area
- Several scooters a week are found in the FH area – e-bikes & scooters have a locking mechanism
- Discussion regarding the importance of e-scooters and micromobility to reducing auto trips. Starting in DC on Oct. 1, all e-bikes & scooters will have a lock to mechanisms – bikes to be locked to something outside like a bike rack but not in the public right of way
- Seniors & kids ride free on Metrobus

Sandra Brecher reported that GEICO won recognition at the Council of Governments (COG) Employer Recognition Awards; Montgomery County employers swept the awards. The Wall Street Journal posted a quarter page ad on micromobility and the awards. Also reported:

- Some micromobility vendors are looking into devices that can be provided for people with disabilities-Bird a shared wheelchair device pilot testing in some areas

Ms. Brecher provided an update to the County Climate Action Plan (CAP), reporting that the team sorted through 900 recommendations and consolidated 87 actions into a plan to achieve an 80% reduction of greenhouse gasses by 2027 & 100% reduction by 2035. Of the 87 items 75 have actions planned. The plan was released to the public June 23rd. Also reported:

- The Electric Vehicle group buy program to reduce the cost of purchasing vehicles
- The County’s website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/climate contains the CAP & Annual Work Plan
- The ‘20 is Plenty’ pilot program to reduce speeds to 20 mph
- Covid vaccines are available for County residents

The Committee discussed having joint TMD meetings for topics not specific to the individual TMDs, thus reducing meetings per year. Points included in the discussion were:

- The White Oak TMD will be forming for FY22
- Joint meetings provide better use of time and benefits of hearing other perspectives from other TMDs
- The benefits of recording presentations on zoom and playing for other TMD ACs – recording notices given when linking to meetings

Item 4 – Employer TDM Reports: **Jim Carlson** reported that there were three Employers up for review as some voluntarily filled out the TDM plan.

The Committee recommended to the MCDOT Director the plans be approved.

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

- Employers reserved in providing information about returning to work due to Covid uncertainty
- Difficulties in obtaining a point of contact for Wedding Wire
- Coming up with strategies to incentivize employers to participate in transit options
- High company turnover presents challenges
- The need to fill vacant slots on the TMD

Item 6 – Updates: **Mr. Carlson** reported that he was working on membership status making sure members were compliant with the County Executives regulations.

Item 7 – Around the Room: Bob Banach reported that at a meeting of the Thrive 2050 plan he was told traffic was not factored into the plan when he raised the issue of narrow streets not being able to accommodate new development and the increase of cars.

Adjourn: Next meeting date: September 30, 2021