

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
October 13, 2015**

Voting Members

Barbara Condos (Vice Chair)	Town of Somerset
Joe Dixon	GEICO
Tiffany Anderson (Chair)	Chevy Chase Land Company
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association
Campbell Graeub	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
John Mertens	Friendship Heights Village

Non-voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
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TMD Staff

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

Absent

Charles Crerand	CBRE Asset Services/Wisconsin Place
Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
Matthew Folden	M-NCPPC
Kenneth Hartman	B-CC Services Center

Guests

Erika Amador	Sharp & Co.
Tim Balinskas	Sharp & Co.
Michael Garcia	M-NCPPC
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
John Marcolin	M-NCPPC
Stuart Rabinowitz	4701 Willard Resident
Ted Van Houten	DDOT

Item 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Minutes/Chair Comments: Chair Tiffany Anderson called the meeting to order. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of July and September minutes tabled for lack of quorum.

Item 4 – Presentation, Westbard Sector Plan Update: **John Marcolin**, M-NCPPC Project Manager, discussed features of the Westbard Sector Plan.

- Development along River Road is not likely to happen due to the existing properties needing to be bought by one owner.
- Development possible at the property where Washington Episcopal School is currently located, but only if they are willing to sell - not likely.
- Zoning can be changed to accommodate residential needs.
- The sector plan allows up to 1600 additional residential units, however not likely that much will be required.
- The tallest buildings will be developed along Westbard and River Road.
- **Mr. Marcolin** discussed the history of the Westbard area, describing the Fuller Stone Plant used to build the Washington Episcopal Church and Macedonia Baptist Church, started for slaves who eventually owned the land.

A public stakeholders meeting was held on September 24th with 50/50 support regarding the project. There will be 4 weeks of sessions to gather public recommendations.

Michael Garcia discussed the traffic study. Some areas of discussion:

- Most traffic in the Westbard is through traffic, so increasing the number of residents will not produce congestion - residents will more likely increase by 700 and not 3,200.
- Committee discussion regarding the changing demographics of the Friendship Heights area
- Discussion of difficulty of biking into the Westbard area and how to increase access – shuttle service will increase Ride On ridership; however, options in addition to buses are needed.
- Separate sidewalk and bike lanes to slow vehicles to 35 mph. However, no reduction in travel lanes – only the size of lanes.
- Road improvements will be consolidated, with construction occurring in stages.
- Discussion of forming an inter-jurisdictional agency to govern new road construction.
- Discussion regarding the role of parking in Transportation Demand Management (TDM).
- **Campbell Graeb** thanked DDOT staff, **Ted Van Houten**, for recent repairs on Western Avenue and commented on a newspaper article which shows backlash from the proposed Maryland helmet law.

Item 5 – Updates: **Jim Carlson** announced -

- The Walk and Ride challenge is currently underway. There are eight teams in Friendship Heights.
- Commuter Survey to employers will be starting in two weeks.
- “MC Liberty” replaces the JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) program for low income Capital Bikeshare annual membership -Bike safety classes available for \$10.

Item 6 – New Business:

- Discussion of what role if any can the Committee or Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) play in solving issues with Metro – possibly having **Gary Erenrich**, **John Thomas** and **Jim Caldwell** talk to the Committee. Host a community event to discuss possible actions.

- Parking regulations at Willard no longer guarantees parking spaces
- Follow up regarding the application of Friendship Heights boundaries which are set by Council
- Construction on Willard making it difficult for residents to get home-should have better accommodations for residents

Item 7- Around the room: