

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
December 8, 2015**

Voting Members

Barbara Condos (Vice Chair)	Town of Somerset
Charles Crerand	CBRE Asset Services/Wisconsin Place
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
Campbell Graeub	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
John Mertens	Friendship Heights Village
Charles Simpson	Chevy Chase Village

Non-voting Members

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

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

Absent

Tiffany Anderson (Chair)	Chevy Chase Land Company
Joe Dixon	GEICO
Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
Matthew Folden	M-NCPPC
Kenneth Hartman	B-CC Services Center
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association

Guests

Tim Balinskas	Sharp & Co.
Matthew Crooks	WMATA
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Julian Mansfield	Friendship Heights Village
Tom Quinn	ANC 3E
John B. Thomas	MCDOT

Abbreviations

ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act
 BRT = Bus Rapid Transit
 MCDOT = Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation
 M-NCPPC = Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
 MSHA = Maryland State Highway Administration

MWCOG = Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Item 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Minutes Review/Chair’s Comments: Vice Chair Barbara Condos called the meeting to order and members and guests introduced themselves. **Charles Simpson, Jr.** was welcomed to the Committee as the new Chevy Chase Village representative.

Meeting minutes were tabled for lack of quorum.

Item 4- Discussion/Presentation: **John Thomas**, from Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT)-Director’s Office, presented an update of transportation projects in the Friendship Heights area. MCDOT is comprised of five divisions:

- Highway Services
- Transit
- Parking
- Director’s Office
- Engineering

Mr. Thomas’s responsibilities include:

- Transit coordination with Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) and is the secondary County contact person for Metro issues (**Gary Erenrich**, Acting Assistant Director for Transportation Policy, is primary)
- Transit projects as they pertain to Montgomery County Master Plans.

Mr. Thomas provided an overview of the County’s current transportation projects, including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Master Plan Developments, ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) signal improvements and bikeshare planning. Discussion topics:

- Low ridership on Metrorail.
- FTA safety recommendations – funds tied to medium and long term improvements.
- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) development pipeline has projects approved but not yet built, which includes 32,000 units in Montgomery County with 500 units in Friendship Commons (GEICO site), not currently under development.
- Information on land parcels is available www.MCAtlas.org website to view site information in Montgomery County.
- Changing development priorities – M-NCPPC reassessment of planning from 1995-2014 found that office vacancy rates reversed from high to low depending on transit access.
- Purple Line – The State is reviewing bids to design, build, maintain, operate and finance the system for 30 years. Project forwarded to Transportation Secretary for review in spring then to Public Works for a final decision. Construction may start next year.
- BRT – Active corridor studies not currently funded for design or construction. Citizen Advisory Committees are forming.
- Priority network for bus corridors is being looked at, but currently no funding available – MDOT has final say on funding.

- Capital Bikeshare is doing well with 51 stations. Filling in station gaps in Bethesda Trolley Trail, Takoma Park and Wheaton by 2017.
- Discussion regarding gas tax to fund transportation projects – highway user revenue is ramping back up, which could mean more County funds.

The Committee had a brief Q&A with guest **Matthew Crooks**, Transit Economist/Analyst for Metro. He will look into the following issues:

- Metro escalators construction not completed in a timely manner.
- The manager of the Friendship Heights station parks a personal vehicle in one of the bus bays, causing congestion and back up.
- Bus congestion due to dispatching buses in batches.

Item 5 – Draft Letter: The Committee discussed the draft letter regarding construction concerns and lack of coordination between agencies:

- Discussed the appointment of a single point of contact to oversee coordination of projects.
- The Committee discussed of possible guest who can assist with issues.
- Letter to be sent to **Al Roshdieh**, Acting MCDOT Director, with a copy to Councilmember **Roger Berliner** and relevant agencies.

Item 6 – Updates:

- The commuter survey outreach has been completed.
- **Tim Balinskas**, Sharp and Company, reported the survey events held at GEICO and other employment centers.
- Discussion about GEICO parking issues.
- Wisconsin Avenue construction is still in process, waiting for SHA to complete ADA intersection work. SHA District 3 Office aware of community’s concerns regarding construction debris and other materials left in medians and on sidewalks.
- Discussion to add light and reflective signs to the crosswalk on Willard in front of the Whole Foods.

Item 7 – Adjourn: Next meeting – January 12, 2016