

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
September 13, 2016**

Voting Members

Barbara Condos (Vice Chair)	Town of Somerset
Manuel Ochoa	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
John Mertens	Friendship Heights Village
Charles Simpson	Chevy Chase Village

TMD Staff

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

Absent

Tiffany L. Anderson (Chair)	Chevy Chase Land Company
Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Charles Crerand	CBRE Asset Services/Wisconsin Place
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

Emily Davis	Sharp & Co.
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Tom Quinn	District ANC 3E Neighborhood

Abbreviations

CID = Commuter Information Day

WMATA = Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Item 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Minutes/Chair Comments: Barbara Condos called meeting to order. Members and guests introduced themselves. Campbell Graeub replacement Manuel Ochoa, representing the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, was welcomed to the Committee. Ms. Condos had no comments.

Item 4 – Discussion: Jim Carlson reviewed the FareShare Program with the Committee, explaining that it is a cost effective way for employers to provide transit benefits at a low cost by combining matching County funds with the Maryland State tax credit. Other features of the program:

- FareShare can be incorporated into Montgomery County's Green Certification Program.
- Matching funds are for transit and vanpool use only – carpools are excluded.
- Funds are to be used as temporary "seed money" to encourage employers to provide permanent transit benefits for employees.

- Participating Companies will be signed up in the County's vendor system and also be enrolled in WMATA's SmartBenefits program to receive funds via reimbursement.
- Contractors Sharp and Van Eperen will meet with employers to explain FareShare. There is a one-page enrollment application.
- Funds are currently available for this fiscal year only and may continue if program is well received. Employers will survey employees at program start, and then at the end.
- Program will first target employers not offering benefits, then seek out the employers that offer a transit subsidy but are willing to increase it.

Item 5 – Updates: Mr. Carlson reported that WMATA's completion of Surge 7 was successful, which was single tracking between Shady Grove and Twinbrook, and total closures on August 13, 14 & 21st. Transit was successful in providing shuttle service during repairs. Other announcements:

- Ride On service changes coming September 18th
- PARK(ing) Day on September 16th- an event that promotes green awareness by transforming on-street parking spaces to "parks" and other green space.
- International Car Free Day on September 22nd

Item 6 – Marketing Outreach Update: Emily Davis, Sharp & Co., briefed the Committee on employer outreach efforts in the TMD – hosting Commuter Information Day (CIDs) to talk to employees about alternative commute options and providing information on Metro SafeTrack. Other projects include:

- Walk and Ride Challenge
- Car Free Day
- Providing coffee and bagels for employee outreach event at Wedding Wire
- FareShare outreach to employers

Ms. Davis commented that it is relatively easy to get interest from *employees* regarding transit alternatives since they have to commute to work; however, *employers* tend to be somewhat less enthusiastic – many see commuting expenses as the employee's responsibility.

Item 7 - Around the Room: Jim Mertens explained that Campbell Graeub's comments regarding the hazardous issues in Friendship Heights affecting the walkability of the area ties in with the Committee's mission of easing traffic congestion, increasing transport, reducing noise and air pollution and improving bike & pedestrian access. Mr. Mertens also recommended using 311 to obtain tracking numbers for work requests in the TMD. Other topics:

- The faded "No Left Turn" sign on Willard and Wisconsin has been fixed.
- Mr. Ochoa commented that speeding is an issue in the TMD – using speed monitors and cameras especially at stop signs and rumble strips may remedy.
- Parking continues to be an issue even with the installation of meters, as they are being used by commuters and not people shopping in the area for which they were intended.
- Suggestion to increase education efforts about distracted walking and driving.
- There are some potentially hazardous crosswalks, such as Hills Plaza, bisecting a wider portion of Willard Avenue. Vehicles have been parked in the crosswalk causing pedestrians to walk in the street, restriping needed.
- Sections of Beach Drive will start closing next week impacting north-south traffic carrying capacity

Item 8 – Adjourn: Next Meeting October 11, 2016