

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

Voting Members

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

Non-Voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Katie Mencarini	M-NCPPC

TMD Staff

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

Absent

Charles Crerand	CBRE Asset Services/Wisconsin Place
Joe Dixon	GEICO
Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
Kenneth Hartman	B-CC Services Center
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association

Guests

Chris Conklin	MCDOT
Emily Davis	Sharp & Co.
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Julian Mansfield	Friendship Heights Village

Definitions

MCDOT = Montgomery County Department of Transportation
 NADMS = Non-Auto Driver Mode Share
 SHA = State Highway Administration

Item 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Minutes/Chair Comments: Members and guest introduced themselves. November meeting minutes were approved.

Item 4 – Discussion/Q & A: Chris Conklin, new Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Deputy Director for Transportation Policy, gave an overview of the department's operation strategies and projects:

- Number of new road projects planned for the County place the emphasis on improving existing infrastructure - Montrose Parkway extension, Mid County Highway in Clarksburg
- Investment in improving transit access – Route 355 connecting Medical Center with Walter Reed and Bethesda south entrance that will connect to the Purple Line
- Improving pedestrian and biking infrastructure
- Looking at ways to implement transportation demand management strategies to other areas outside of the County’s transportation management districts – Advisory Committee input will be crucial in this process
- Implementation of “Vision Zero”, the County’s goal to reach 0 fatalities due to traffic accidents

Mr. Conklin discussed technological advances:

- Adaptive Signal Controls that operate signals based on traffic conditions
- Video mapping of Ride On bus routes

Other transportation issues:

- \$700 Million in cuts to the 6-year transportation plan due to decreasing fuel prices
- Received proposals from the private sector to ease congestion along the I-270 corridor, with \$100 million available
- I-270 Corridor and I-495 studies
- Free MARC tickets given to reduce riders during Metro’s Surge 10
- WMATA’s “Back to Good” campaign to close the \$200 million deficit through proposed service cuts, 1,100 positions eliminated – The County is involved in advising how to direct cuts for less impact
- Discussion regarding State legislation allowing Counties to create taxes such as a gas tax to fund transportation projects

John Mertens proposed the following:

- raising gas taxes by \$1
- taxing the land based on density than on the current zoning usage

Manuel Ochoa updated the Committee on the HAWK signals proposed by Councilman **Berliner**, stating that the bill will be presented to the State Legislature when it reconvenes in January.

Also discussed was the State and Federal Transit Authority moving forward on the Purple Line project to resolve judicial rulings and continued construction.

Jim Carlson reported WMATA is proposing bus service cuts and reductions due to budget cuts. **Mr. Conklin** explained that the County is not able to take over some bus routes due to the lack of State funding, and WMATA has more infrastructure for service and maintenance. The Committee also discussed:

- Extending the BRT system in to the District – not in the projects plan based on State funding, Ride On bus system is designed as a feeder system
- How Metro’s budget cuts will affect Non-Auto Driver Mode Share (NADMS), rush hour runtimes and the supplementation of Ride On bus service to accommodate reduced service
- How the domino effect of Metro budget cuts may increase wait times and decrease seat availability which in turn decrease ridership calling for more cuts

- The coordination needed to prevent bus bunching by monitoring speed times, and Metro and Ride On different tracking systems
- Metro budget cuts public hearing will be in late January

Item 5 - Draft FY18 TMD Budget Priorities: Mr. Carlson presented a draft of last year's budget. The draft was updated to include the FareShare program, since it has been reinstated. The draft now requests that funding of the program continue. Other features of the budget draft:

- Transit service improvements such as restoring route 23 & 29 to original service
- Improving pedestrian safety – HAWK signals
- Carsharing
- Funding for the TRiPS store and continued funding for contractor staff
- Discussion regarding the difficulties of obtaining Chamber representation on the Committee
- Following up with State Highway Administration (SHA) regarding cracks in the sidewalks and the tripping hazard on the N.E. corner of Wisconsin Circle and Wisconsin Avenue.

Item 6 – Marketing Outreach Update: Emily Davis, Sharp & Co., announced:

- Wedding Wire is reviewing their participation in the FareShare program, and Pacific Western Bank increased their subsidy amount to \$255.
- Sharp is focusing now on smaller employers in the Friendship Heights area, since most large employers provide some type of transit/vanpool benefit and/or other commuter benefits
- Visits made to Chevy Chase Land Company and Boston Properties

Item 7 – Updates: Ms. Brecher announced:

- Spring City Cycling Classes in the works
- Report regarding Parking revenues and enforcement in the Friendship Heights area
- **County Executive Ike Leggett** to hold general public forum on January 9th
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) outreach effort underway

Item 8 – Adjourn: Next meeting – January 10, 2017