Item 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Minutes/Chair Comments: Co-Chair Barbara Condos called meeting to order, members and guests introduced themselves. December’s meeting minutes were tabled with corrections. Ms. Condos had no comments.

Item 4 – WMATA/Safe Track/Moving Forward: Special assistant to MCDOT Director Gary Erenrich reported that Metro’s Board approved new late night service hours starting July 1 – closing @ 11:30 pm Monday through Thursday and 1:00 am Friday & Saturday. This temporary change will allow the system a chance to see if the extra hours are sufficient to conduct regular maintenance for a duration of two years. He explained that if the station shuts down at 12 am repair work does not start until 1:30 due to getting the trains back and shutting down the power. Also reported:

- It costs $50,000/hour to run the rail system and there are capacity issues having buses compensate due to limited operating times in Montgomery County
• Metro’s $300 million operating budget gap – no public hearing scheduled yet – proposed fare increase from $2.15 to $2.25 and $5.90 to $6.00 as the maximum rail fare and $1.75 - $2.00 for buses
• Discussion regarding using MARC as a viable travel alternative to Metro – good travel times and comparable fare to rail
• Metro Select pass program as a way for commuters to save money with unlimited trips – issues with understanding the program is causing underutilization of the benefits
• Discussion regarding Metro parking fee increases, some station parking is underutilized (Wheaton) due to nearby mall parking availability
• The issues with lengthening headways, as they went from 2 ½ - 5 minutes after the Ft. Totten incident, causing the system to switch from automatic to manual, thus reducing trains from 24 to 20 trains per hour
• Widening headways from 12-15 minutes on Metro rail as a cost saving measure
• Discussion of Metro rail car turn-backs and the County’s debate to block reinstatement
• Metro bus service cuts based on regional vs non-regional operational need. Cuts for mostly non-regional routes do not have a significant impact on the deficit
• Discussion of the effort to make the burden of the cuts more equitable between jurisdictions
• The Committee can make recommendations to the State via MCDOT’s Director office

The Committee also discussed:
• The issues regarding County takeover of some Metro routes -providing extra buses and labor as major obstacles
• The States reluctance of giving the County taxing authority to institute a gas tax to provide additional transportation funding
• Having the State give the County instead of Metro the operating funds for the T2 route

Item 5 – Draft FY18 TMD Priorities: The Committee discussed changes to the 2016 County Executive Budget Priorities draft:
• John Mertens suggested the County look at congestion pricing
• Pedestrian and bicycle lighting improvements to benefit the night time economy
• Allowing HAWK signals (pedestrian operated crossing beacons) on County roads
• Asking for a dedicated funding source for Metro. Davis Bill expires in 2018, in which the Federal Government contributes $150 million for 10 years and the three jurisdictions match with an additional $50 million each
• Deletion of item number eight.

Item 6 – Marketing Outreach Update: Emily Davis of Sharp & Co. announced nominations of employers for the Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards – suggestions welcome.

Item 7 – TMD/Police/DOT Updates: Ms. Brecher commented on the need to lobby to retain transit and vanpool subsidies under the new administration.

Item 8 – Around the Room: Mr. Ochoa reported excessive ticketing of expired parking permits due to the new online system

Adjourn: Next meeting February 14, 2017