

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
July 11, 2017**

Voting Members

Tiffany L. Anderson (Chair)	Chevy Chase Land Company
Barbara Condos (Vice Chair)	Town of Somerset
Charles Crerand	CBRE Asset Services/Wisconsin Place
Joe Dixon	GEICO
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
Manuel Ochoa	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights

Non-Voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
Katie Mencarini	M-NCPPC

TMD Staff

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

Absent

Kenneth Hartman	B-CC Services Center
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association
John Mertens	Friendship Heights Village
Charles Simpson	Chevy Chase Village

Guests

Emily Davis	Sharp & Co.
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Marc Korman	Delegate – District 16
Julian Mansfield	Friendship Heights Village
Barbara Tauben	Friendship Heights Village Civic Association

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

Item 4 – Discussion, Transportation Issues: Delegate Marc Korman (D-District 16) discussed transportation issues:

- TMD and community members are very concerned about the ADA accessible ramps at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue & Wisconsin Circle and SHA’s lack of response to

correct the issue. The ramp design is seen as a tripping hazard by many in the community, and some have fallen over them.

- There is a continuing debate over HAWK beacons (High-Intensity Activated crosswalk beacon) signal compliancy in the Federal manual – HAWK beacons currently installed in 40 States, but not in full use in Maryland.
- Committee discussed SHA’s poor performance, citing lack of response to inquiries and fixes and lack of coordination with utility companies and other governmental agencies; there is the need for good organizational structure, not just a few good individuals – SHA’s staff is underpaid with high turnover, made up of mostly contractors; however, involvement of **Chris Van Hollen’s** office usually gets results.

Del. Korman discussed Metro’s safety, reliability, low ridership and funding issues. He reported that his purpose is to obtain input from WMATA’s workforce and stakeholders, opposed to government & local officials that are not held accountable. Some measures he has taken:

- Proposing a multi-state Metrorail safety commission as an outside safety oversight entity
- Advocating for a dedicated funding source
- Looking at how money is currently allocated, since Metro is not completely spending its capital budget funding
- Restructuring the Rider Advisory Council by appointing a Board of Directors
- Empowering Metro’s Inspector General to stop abuse
- Proposing a requirement that Metro do a strategic plan every five years
- Noting a lack of investment/development around Metro stations in Prince George’s County- Metro must strive for economic growth around stations to continue
- Proposal to have individual jurisdictions decide how they want to fund Metro

Other points discussed:

- There are issues with a flat sales tax as a funding mechanism. Example: Northern Virginia will produce 50-percent of revenue but has only a third of the Metro stations – need for a leveling mechanism.
- Metro raising fares but cutting service further contributes to low ridership, casting a negative light on all transit projects – Purple Line project held up due to judicial ruling, citing Metro issues as the reason.
- Discussion regarding lack of adequate lighting in Metro stations
- Discussion of an “Urban District Tax” – property owners not wanting to pay because they already pay for their own upkeep and maintenance

Item 5 – Marketing Outreach Update: Emily Davis of Sharp & Co. reported conducting informational events at Wedding Wire & Ritz Carlton.

Item 6 – Updates: Ms. Brecher announced the Mobile Commuter Store was coming soon and that the Friendship Heights TRiPS store will close.

Item 7 – Around the Room:

- **Joe Dixon** inquired about crosswalk signage at Willard and Friendship Blvd. - a study on the crosswalk was completed and options are being explored by Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT).
- Pilot program for artwork in crosswalks – have speaker present program to the Committee at a future meeting.

Adjourn: Next meeting date: Sept 12, 2017