



GREATER SHADY GROVE
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA
Greater Shady Grove Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee Meeting
January 16, 2019

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Johns Hopkins University / A&R Building Rm. 107
9601 Medical Center Drive, Rockville MD 20850
Staff Contact: Jim Carlson / (240) 777-8382; (301) 318-0328
james.carlson@montgomerycountymd.gov

-
- 8:30 **1. Welcome & Introductions (please sign in)**
 - 2. Review of Minutes** **All**
 November (©2)
 - 8:35 **3. Washington Region Bus Transformation Project** **Lora Byala**
Foursquare ITP
 - 9:05 **4. Great Seneca Short-Range Transit Plan** **Gary Erenrich**
MCDOT
 - 9:35 **5. Employer Traffic Mitigation Plans** **Jim Carlson**
 Summary (©5)
 - 9:45 **6. Marketing Outreach Update** **Van Eperen & Co.**
TMD staff for Shady Grove
 - 9:50 **7. Updates: Police/TMD/DOT/Other County Updates** **Capt. Tom Didone**
Catherine Matthews
Jim Carlson
 - 10:00 **8. Adjourn**
 Next meeting date: March 6, 2019

Information Items

-
- County Exec Marc Elrich to host FY20 Operating Budget forums*
 - Metro restores free customer parking on Saturdays*
 - Metro to welcome bicycles on trains at rush hour*
 - Elrich Seeks Applicants for Taxicab Services Commission*
 - Metro to expand Abilities-Ride program to DC & Virginia after successful pilot in Maryland*

**Greater Shady Grove
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
November 7, 2018**

Voting

John Brandt / Universities at Shady Grove
Steve Kelley / NIH – National Cancer Institute
Ellen Poltilove / Johns Hopkins University
McClellan Quinn / EYA
Paul Yanoshik / RE/MAX Realty Services

Non-Voting

Joseph Allen / Neighborhood Representative – Gaithersburg

Ex Officio

Sandra Brecher / Representing MC Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) Director
Catherine Matthews / Upcounty Regional Services Center
Alyssa Roff / City of Gaithersburg

Staff

Nakengi Byrd / Montgomery County Commuter Services
Jim Carlson / Montgomery County Commuter Services

Absent

Joseph Allen / Gaithersburg
Ed Axler / M-NCPPC
Capt. Thomas Didone / Montgomery County Police

Guests

Jennifer Bolick / Van Eperen
Zach Deshaies / Van Eperen
Amy Frieder / MC Resident
Gehmelle Johnson / NCI

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes: Members and guests introduced themselves.
September minutes were approved.

Item 3 – Westside Neighborhood Update: **McLean Quinn**, EYA, presented an update on the development of the Westside mixed development neighborhood.

- EYA has sold 129 of 148 townhouses
- The Daley building, a multi-unit residential complex with ground floor retail is 92 percent occupied and is on the market to be sold
- Construction to start on a second building in summer 2019
- CVS pharmacy is most of retail on ground level of Daley building, and continued retail construction on both sides of the street

- Construction costs are a major challenge due to decline in immigration driving up the labor market and new developments being constructed, putting building materials in demand – construction costs up 25 percent since 2015; however, constraints are felt more in multi-family units than townhouses

Mr. Quinn discussed some of the changes made to the site amendment, saying that it will take a while for the market to absorb the 1,114 units:

- Changing some of the multi family unit into condos to make them more affordable
- Rearranging and modifying units between buildings, changing townhouse density to offer a broader range product

Mr. Quinn explained his team’s findings that the Shady Grove Metro Station did not prove to be the attraction previously thought. Most residents see Metro more as an amenity than necessity and still drive to work. Also discussed:

- How delays in construction at the County Service Park area is preventing complete build-out of the development – delayed construction due to the need for alternative school bus parking at the site
- As build-out occurs, the Westside development will become a better value to buyers from upcounty, as people downcounty have options there and don’t need to move to Shady Grove
- Grocery store construction prohibited due to lack of a curb cut to mitigate traffic
- 130,000 sq. ft. of office space was converted to retail use based on traffic generation
- Great interest by day care for retail space in development
- Sound wall built to control noise from CSX tracks and construction of buildings along Shady Grove Road; to cancel out noise is a major challenge
- Slowing traffic speed on Crabbs Branch also a challenge – speed cameras are prohibited in the area

Item 4 – Dockless Bikeshare Pilot Expansion: Sandra Brecher updated the Committee on plans to continue the pilot started a year ago in Silver Spring and set to expand to other areas of the County. The County has agreements with several companies; some Chinese-based companies (OFO & MoBike) that deployed bikes to the pilot area; however, some companies dropped out with only Lime Bike and Spin remain.

The dockless GPS/remote based system doesn’t have docking stations; it is not publicly funded but is managed by the MCDOT. The Capital Bikeshare station based system is vendor based with contracts with surrounding jurisdictions. An evaluation of the dockless pilot by Toole Design was generally successful with a few challenges such as:

- Too many bikes saturating the area (700-800 bikes)
- Bike blowing or falling down and other weather related issues
- Improper parking blocking bus stops and ADA ramps

Ms. Brecher also discussed:

- Number of bikes were reduced to three per block face
- Community voiced concerns at a Silver Spring Town Hall meeting; there was roughly 50/50 support vs critiques at the meeting

- Of the 18,000 dockless bike trips made, only seven percent were parked improperly, with some outside the geo-fenced area; companies are responsible for picking up bikes outside the area
- An ambassador program for information about dockless pilot revealed 84 percent want the program to continue with addition of e-bikes and scooters
- The County has funded additional bike racks based on the community requests
- Study underway to have dockless bikes to be equipped with mechanism to keep bikes locked and upright when not in use

Ms. Brecher discussed MCDOT's proposals regarding the dockless pilot, such as including e-bikes & scooters, establishing minimums and maximums, expanding the pilot area, allowing jurisdictions the opportunity to opt into the pilot – those that do not want to be a part of the program will be geo-fenced out of pilot with a message to the rider that they cannot end trips in a prohibited area. System users will be able to ride through a prohibited area, but there may be surcharges associated with parking in the area. Also discussed:

- Issues with scooter speed and potential hazards to pedestrians
- Letters and emails sent to surrounding jurisdictions to expand pilot in their area
- Park trails have separate policies regarding e-bikes
- Bike companies will provide monthly reports detailing travel patterns
- Scooters must be charged every night, and e-bikes every three days
- Performance measures include parking, violator removal, good customer service; however, a regional 1-800 number is not preferred

Ms. Brecher said that a Survey Monkey link has been provided for suggestions/comments on how to run the system.

Item 5 – Marketing Outreach: Jennifer Bolick of Van Eperen announced:

- Continuing outreach to employers regarding traffic mitigation plans and reports completion
- Setting up commuter outreach events with companies
- Walk & Ride challenge was successful with 22 teams and 76 participants
- WABA cycling classes & community bike rides
- Obtaining responses to the commuter survey

Item 6 – Updates: Jim Carlson announced:

- Ride On public forum Nov. 15th on Route 52 Olney expansion to extend some trips to Our Lady of Good Council
- MCDOT installed first HAWK signal
- Shady Grove Sector Plan to be reviewed Wednesday, Nov. 14th
- Montgomery County to receive new County Executive **Marc Elrich** and several Council Members

Item 7 – Adjourn

**Greater Shady Grove TMD
Employer Traffic Mitigation Plan Summary
January 2019**

TMP Code Requirements:

1. *Contact person designated to receive and distribute commuter information to employees*
2. *Information on transit and other commute alternatives distributed/ posted regularly (furnished by Commuter Services/CSS)*
3. *Facilitate CSS/TMD staff presentations and commuter information events for employees and HR/administrative staff. This could include benefits fairs and other employer-sponsored events*
4. *Guaranteed Ride Home Promotion (free regional program offering emergency rides)*
5. *Annual Commuter Survey distributed to employees (short survey of transportation– supplied by CSS/TMD)*
6. *ADA information provided (transportation services for people with disabilities)*
7. *Permanent display area for bus schedules and other transportation information*
8. *Compile information on yearly TMP activities and submit Annual Report*

| Employer | Status | Recommend Approval |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Westat | Meets all requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike racks & showers • Flexible schedules/compressed work week • Telework – 128 participants • Transit subsidy match • Pre-tax deduction | Yes |
| Bright MLS | Meets all requirements - no voluntary measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend strong follow-up to encourage more active TDM participation | Yes |
| Matthews Media Group | Meets all requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New employee commute information • Bike racks / showers • Carpool/vanpool preferred parking • Participate in car sharing • Telework • Monthly transit subsidy | Yes |
| Aeras | Meets all requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike racks/lockers • Alternative schedules / telework | Yes |
| Savantage Financial Services | Meets all requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New employee commute information • Flexible schedules / telework • Pre-tax deduction | Yes |

| | | |
|---|--|-----|
| Exeter Government Services | Meets all requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible schedules / telework | Yes |
| Adventist HealthCare | Meets all requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New employee commute information • Bike racks / lockers • Flexible schedules / telework / compressed sched. | Yes |
| National Cancer Institute | Meets all requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free carpool/vanpool parking • Preferred parking for pools & low emission vehicles • Transhare monthly transit benefit • Pre-tax deduction • Bike racks/lockers/showers • Carpool matching through Transhare • Alternative schedules / telework | Yes |
| American Speech-Language-Hearing Association | Meets all requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New employee commute information • Reserved preferred parking for carpools/vanpools • Bike racks/lockers/showers • Flexible & compressed schedules • Telework – 50% of employees • Monthly transit benefit - \$130 | Yes |
| Bioqual | Meets all requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New employee commute information | Yes |
| Immunomic Therapeutics | Meets all requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New employee commute information • Bike racks • Capital Bikeshare front of building | Yes |

(UPDATE) Elrich to Hold First of Five FY20 Operating Budget Forums Jan. 16

For Immediate Release: Monday, January 14, 2019

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich is holding the first of five budget forums on Wednesday, Jan. 16, to seek input from residents about Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Operating Budget priorities. The forum will begin at 7 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring .

"It is very important for me to hear from the public as we prepare the budget," said Elrich. "I invite residents, our business community and nonprofit representatives to attend any of the upcoming budget forums to let me know your priorities."

Additional FY20 Operating Budget forums are scheduled as follows:

- **Tuesday, Jan. 22 – 7 p.m.** – Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 23 – 7 p.m.** – Mid-County Recreation Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring.
- **Thursday (SNOW DATE), Jan. 31 – 7 p.m.** – BlackRock Center for the Arts, at 12901 Town Commons Drive in Germantown.
- **Monday, Feb. 4 – 7 p.m.** – Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, 4301 East West Hwy, Bethesda.

The County Executive will announce his Recommended FY20 Operating Budget on March 15.

The County Council approves the operating budget at the end of May. Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, call 240-777-6507, Maryland Relay 711 or email a request to Karen.falcon@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Join Montgomery County's conversation about the FY20 Operating Budget on social media and help raise awareness by using #MoCoBudget20.

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Media Contact:

Release ID: 19-002

Media Contact: Ohene Gyapong 240-777-6507

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For immediate release: January 3, 2019

Metro restores free customer parking on Saturdays

In response to customer feedback, Metro will eliminate Saturday parking fees for Metrorail customers beginning this weekend. A \$2 fee had been implemented last February as part of a pilot program.

Riders who use Metrorail will park for free on Saturday, with the exception of designated regional or special events. During large-scale regional events such as Fourth of July, a Presidential Inauguration, marches or other events that draw large crowds Metro may still charge for parking on weekends or federal holidays under a new policy approved by Metro's Board of Directors effective this year.

Weekday parking fees and hours implemented during the pilot period will become permanent. This includes a reduced \$3 parking rate at the West Falls Church and Landover Metrorail stations to encourage ridership.

Parking fees will be collected during the following hours:

Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.

Individuals who park at Metro facilities but do not use the Metrorail system are charged a higher "non-rider fee" (ranging from \$8.70-\$10) at the following stations: Branch Ave, Greenbelt, Suitland, Huntington, Dunn Loring, Minnesota Ave, New Carrollton, Franconia-Springfield, Largo Town Center, Rhode Island Ave, Rockville, Twinbrook and White Flint. Metro may expand the use of "non-rider fees" in the future.

Metro is also planning to introduce new payment technology options such as mobile apps or online reservation systems to further improve customers' parking experience.

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For immediate release: January 2, 2019

Metro to welcome bicycles on trains at rush hour

Starting next week, Metro customers will be able to bring their bikes with them on the train – at any time – as Metro ends a longstanding restriction that prohibited bicycles during rush hours.

The policy change, which takes effect Monday, is expected to make Metrorail a more attractive travel option for reverse commuters (i.e. customers traveling outbound in the morning and inbound in the evening) who want to take their bike to travel between the rail station and their workplace.

Metro reviewed its policy and determined that it could respond to requests from the bicycling community by ending the rush-hour bike restriction without significant negative effects. The review took into account that the majority of rush-hour trains are 8 cars in length (the longest possible), and that new 7000-series trains provide more open space.

“We received requests from Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) and others in the bicycle community asking us to take a fresh look at our policy,” said Metro Chief Operating Officer Joe Leader. “We believe this change supports ridership growth by Metro and a commuting option for those who want to have a bike with them.”

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association welcomed today’s announcement. “Bicycling extends the reach of Metrorail for customers at the beginning and end of their trip. Members of the community have long wanted the option to bring a bicycle along with them on their rush hour trips, especially reverse commuters,” said Greg Billing, WABA Executive Director. “I have to say that we’re pleasantly surprised with how flexible and accommodating Metro has been in responding quickly to this request. We are grateful to leadership at Metro for this policy change to permit bicycles during all hours of Metrorail operations.”

When Metrorail first opened, bikes were not allowed in the system at all. Since then, Metro has incrementally loosened restrictions without significant problems. Bikes were first allowed in 1982, with a paid permit on weekends and holidays only. The days and hours when bikes were allowed gradually expanded over time. Permits were eliminated in 1998, and the current policy was established in 2001, allowing bikes at all hours except weekdays from 7-10 a.m. and 4-7 p.m.

Starting Monday, standard-size bikes will be allowed at all times, on any car of any train, provided that space is available. Customers with bikes are reminded to use the doors at either end of the railcar – not the center doors – and to avoid blocking doors or aisles. Metro will monitor implementation of the new policy to determine whether any modifications are necessary. In addition, Metro reserves the ability to restrict bicycles on the rail system during major events drawing high ridership, such as July 4 fireworks and Inauguration Day.

Customers can also bring their bikes with them on Metrobus. All 1,500 Metrobuses are equipped with a rack on the front that can accommodate up to two full-size bikes at a time.

Roughly 0.8 percent of Metro customers arrived at their rail station by bike in 2016. The WMATA Board has set a goal of increasing that percentage to 2.1 percent by 2020.

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New Online Application Process



Release ID: 19-004

Media Contact: Gochrach, Beth 240-777-2528

For Immediate Release: 1/4/2019

Application Deadline: 2/8/2019

Elrich Seeks Applicants for Taxicab Services Commission

County Executive Marc Elrich is seeking applicants to fill three vacancies on the Taxicab Services Commission. Two vacancies are for taxicab industry representatives: one that must represent management and one that must be a taxicab owner/driver; and one vacancy is for a public member. The two industry representative incumbents are eligible to apply for reappointment.

Additional members of the Taxicab Services Commission are the ex officio non-voting Director of the Department of Transportation, or the Director's representative, and Chair of the County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee, or the Chair's representative, and industry non-owner taxicab drivers.

The Commission must conduct a review of the County taxicab industry and submit a report to the County Executive and County Council each even-numbered year, describing the status of the industry and identifying any changes to the regulation of the industry that the Commission finds necessary or desirable, including changes in or to licenses in circulation, rates, fees, and insurance, accessibility, and affiliation and dispatch requirements.

Members serve three-year terms without compensation, but are eligible for reimbursement for travel and dependent care for meetings attended. The Commission generally meets monthly at 6:00 PM on Tuesday evenings in Rockville.

Applicants of diverse backgrounds, professions, gender, geography, disability and ethnicity are encouraged to apply. Members of County boards, committees and commissions may not serve on more than one such group at a time. Members must complete training on the Maryland Open Meetings Act and basic parliamentary procedure. Elrich's appointments are subject to confirmation by the County Council. Applications of those selected for appointment are made public as part of the confirmation process. The deadline for application is **February 8, 2019**. To apply please click **"Apply" below**.

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For immediate release: January 9, 2019

Metro to expand Abilities-Ride program to D.C. and Virginia after successful pilot in Maryland

Program offers on-demand taxi service as alternative to MetroAccess

Following a successful pilot in Maryland, Metro announced today that it is requesting proposals from taxi service and other transportation and technology companies to expand the Abilities-Ride program to the District and Virginia and to add additional service providers. The program offers an alternative to MetroAccess service by allowing eligible customers to use on-demand services -- without sharing a ride -- at a discounted rate.

The Abilities-Ride program -- offered for trips that begin or end in Maryland since a pilot program was launched last September -- provides a more flexible alternative to MetroAccess by allowing eligible customers to use on-demand taxi services at a discounted rate, without having to share a ride. Since the start of the program, more than 2,700 individual customers have taken over 86,000 trips, most of which would have otherwise been on MetroAccess. Riders can request their trip in advance by calling the taxi company directly, or through their respective websites or smartphone apps.

"The Abilities-Ride program has proven to be a win-win for Metro and our MetroAccess customers by giving people with special travel needs more flexibility while saving Metro money," said Metro General Manager/CEO Paul J. Wiedefeld. "We look forward to expanding these important benefits to MetroAccess customers region wide."

By avoiding more expensive MetroAccess trips, region-wide implementation of the Abilities-Ride program is estimated to save Metro \$4-\$6 million per year. Each trip taken on MetroAccess costs Metro more than \$50 per trip.

With Abilities-Ride, customers pay as little as \$5.00 per trip. An estimated fare is provided to the customer before taking a trip. Customers pay the first \$5 and Metro pays the next \$15 in fare. Any remaining fare over \$20 is charged to the customer.

Proposals are due February 13, and Metro hopes to launch the expanded Abilities-Ride program by summer.

All drivers operating taxi service under the Abilities-Ride program will be required to undergo training on how to serve customers with disabilities, including customers traveling with service animals, and those who are deaf, hard of hearing, have visual disabilities, or who may need assistance getting in and out of the vehicle.

The Abilities-Ride program is optional for MetroAccess customers, and Metro will continue to offer door-to-door shared-ride service on MetroAccess throughout the District, Maryland and Virginia. More information for MetroAccess customers interested in the Abilities-Ride program is available [here](#).

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