

**Greater Shady Grove  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
November 18, 2020**

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**Voting**

**Amy Frieder** / Neighborhood Representative  
**Benjamin Garcia** / Neighborhood Representative  
**Steve Kelley** / NIH – National Cancer Institute  
**McClellan Quinn** / EYA  
**Paul Yanoshik** / RE/MAX Realty Services

**Ex Officio**

**Sandra Brecher** / Representing MC Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) Director  
**Catherine Matthews** / Upcounty Regional Services Center  
**Capt. David McBain** / Montgomery County Police  
**Vacant** / City of Gaithersburg

**Staff**

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

**Absent**

**John Brandt** / Universities at Shady Grove

**Guests**

**Jake Adler** / Van Eperen  
**Jennifer Bolick** / Van Eperen  
**Gary Erenrich** / MCDOT  
**Gehmelle Johnson** / NIH-National Cancer Institute  
**Corey Pitts** / MCDOT  
**Laura Van Eperen** / Van Eperen  
**Nkosi Yearwood** / M-NCPPC

**Item 1 – Welcome & Introductions:** Introductions were tabled to allow time for presentation. This was an additional November special meeting convened to present new information on upcoming transportation projects in the Greater Shady Grove area.

**Item 2 – Presentation: Great Seneca Science Corridor Transit Improvements: Cory Pitts,** Planning Section Manager, who has been working on the Great Seneca Science Corridor (GSSC) plan for the last eight months presented information for Committee feedback.

The GSSC masterplan was adopted in 2010 to build out the biotech industry corridor, including hospitals and education centers in the area; however, staging limitations are placed on development due to the delay in building the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT). The plan is to provide direct bus service in the

short-term, connecting key centers inside the GSSC and the surrounding commercial/residential areas to the Shady Grove & Rockville Metro stations. Some features and goals of the proposed plan include:

- Four enhanced bus routes to provide direct connections-Lime, Pink, Gray and Cobalt lines
- Goals of the system are to shift drivers to transit, meeting carbon reduction and staging requirements, and feed into the existing transit system (Rockville & Shady Grove stations, BRT)
- Improving job access, strengthening frontline worker access as an important part of the Covid recovery process
- Staged approach implementation with quick implementable improvements, then a longer enhanced phase with bus routes Lime & Pink lines followed by Gray, Cobalt & Lime Extended route completion
- Providing connections to public safety, hospitals, educational centers and biotech companies
- Three levels of bus stations tailored to activity of the area
- Buses operating every 15 minutes and 10 minutes during the peak-infrastructure for route speed and reliability (above masterplan requirements)
- The GSSC planning area is bordered by Shady Grove Metro station, The Universities of Shady Grove, Rockville and Kentlands.

**Mr. Pitts** discussed GSSC plan funding:

- Seeking funds from County Council for the designing and planning phase of construction which should be a one to 1-1/2 year process, and project completion in five years
- Current funds are \$60-\$70 million and other funding options are being explored
- Initial funding will be obtained followed by additional funds for enhancements and expanded network

**Mr. Pitts** discussed the next steps of the project, that includes meeting with the community and other stakeholders to collect feedback and support. Also securing funding for next fiscal year 2021 to start construction, which will be the planning and design phase of the project. He requested assistance from the Committee to help forward the project.

#### **Questions/Discussion:**

- Committee noted the importance of extending the routes to Gaithersburg and the importance of collaborating with jurisdictions in the planning process.
- The population that will be serviced by the project will be up to 10,000 riders a day-current ridership is 3,000-5,000 daily
- Travel patterns in the area were tracked using cell phone data as a map for route planning; however, no ridership modeling has occurred yet
- Stations were identified based on what made sense for the route, not a CCT replacement but as short term using existing right of way
- A branded bus will be used to service the routes
- As the project is in the beginning phases, modifying of existing Ride On routes has not taken place yet.
- Feedback on the project is needed before the January 2021 budgetary process – The Shady Grove implementation plan meeting: contact **Steve Findley** (M-NCPPC) can give feedback
- There have been discussions regarding bikeshare, and pedestrian connections were also examined
- Stations identified as hubs will serve as connection to areas of high activity in locations such as Rio Lakefront, Johns Hopkins & Washington Adventist Hospitals

**Mr. Pitts** commented that people seem supportive of the project; however, more in-depth conversations need to occur with the community and stakeholders-scheduling for these meetings in the next few weeks. Additional comments:

- Although existing routes servicing Universities at Shady Grove may overlap, they are circuitous and the new plan routes offer a more direct service
- Discussion regarding using the new project to leverage a change in the GSSC Masterplan staging requirements - not have them be contingent on the CCT
- Education about the project will be disseminated via community briefings, a digital story mapping tool located on the County's website that will serve as an interactive virtual process to walk participants through the project since Covid has limited physical contact-**Jim Carlson** will distribute the PowerPoint presentation to the Committee and **Mr. Pitts** email to submit comments

**Item 3 – Metro Updates: Gary Erenrich** reported that WMATA is revising its FY21 budget to reflect revenue loss due to Covid. Reinstating the turnback at Grosvenor Station was proposed but has been dropped. Ride On will be reinstating bus fares at the end of January 2021 as the buses have plastic barriers installed

**Item 4 - Updates: Sandra Brecher** reported that the Climate Action Plan draft will be issued for public comment the week after Thanksgiving and the Request for Information (RFI) for Electric Vehicle community purchasing will have a forum the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December for feedback and discussion.

**Benny Garcia** will coordinate a meeting with the Westside development community to disseminate information about the new bus routes

**Adjourn: Next meeting January 6, 2021**