

**Greater Shady Grove
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
Teams Meeting
May 13, 2020**

Voting

John Brandt / Universities at Shady Grove
Benjamin Garcia / Neighborhood Representative
Steve Kelley / NIH – National Cancer Institute
Amy Frieder / Neighborhood Representative
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

Staff

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

Absent

McClellan Quinn / EYA

Guests

Jennifer Bolick / Van Eperen
Gary Erenrich / MCDOT
Gehmelle Johnson / NIH-National Cancer Institute
Laura Van Eperen / Van Eperen

Item 1 - Introductions: Members and guests introduced themselves. March meeting minutes were reviewed.

Item 2 - Metro Recovery Plan: **Gary Erenrich** discussed Metro’s recovery plan, which was published in the Washington Post and will also be presented at Metro’s Board meeting taking place May 14. He commented on the low ridership due to the COVID pandemic which, since the crisis, now has placed limits on commuters allowed on transit - 10 people on a forty foot bus and 20-25 people on rail with the first and last cars being unavailable to the public as a safety measure in reducing driver interaction with the public. There has been some difficulty in coordinating between the different jurisdictions in the region.

Customer sentiment is generally positive, although they view grocery shopping less hazardous than riding transit. Other points of discussion were:

- Metro’s extensive research to capture public attitudes and behavior about transit - the perception of riding Metro riskier than grocery shopping due to social distancing

- No idea when we will get back to work for employers and affecting Metro's planning
- FY21 planned service cuts & increases put on hold due to COVID crisis
- Both Metro and Ride On buses can limit driver interaction with the public - rear door entry
- Looking at new technology for a contactless mobile fare payment and SmarTrip panel on the rear door
- Ridership anticipation in relation to mapping out workforce available which is only 50% and the need for social distancing
- Metro's three step process to normal operations - stabilization, re-entry, and recovery
- Metrorail currently running at 20-minute headways
- Track & platform work being done by taking advantage of shorter operation hours due to COVID crisis low ridership - rail closing at 9 pm bus at 11 pm

Mr. Erenrich discussed CARES Act funding with Metro receiving \$760 million and Ride On \$30 million; however, Ride On has a \$125 million budget and it is uncertain when revenue will return to normal. Metro is using money to balance its budget placing the remainder in FY21 funds reducing Maryland's contribution by \$50 million for its FY21 budget; the funds are to provide for lost revenue due to COVID. Also discussed:

- Metro's ridership has been reduced from 400,000 to 100,000, and Ride On reduced from 70,000 to under 10,000 pointing to essential workers who use transit and essential trips – **Mr. Erenrich** shared a map showing essential locations and associated routes
- Plexi glass installation

Crabbs Branch Traffic Update - Benny Garcia reported that there is some improvement, although it is difficult to determine if the speed cameras are working since the pandemic has reduced vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the streets. He has seen more police presence and automated speed tracking.

Other areas of discussion:

- Loud engine noises coming from drag racing on I-270. **Capt. McBain** reported that the high speeds were traced to one vehicle belonging to a 19-year old
- Police traffic enforcement is less of a presence due to the crisis; however, slowly returning to normal operations
- **Mr. Garcia** is preparing a statement regarding the bus relocation issue for the Greater Shady Grove Master Plan public hearing on May 14; additional statements included the vehicle turn-ins on Crabbs Branch, which in some cases are greater than 90 degrees, not slowing vehicle speed enough for pedestrian safety at corner crossings
- Greater Shady Grove public hearing tomorrow 5/14/20 - Vision Zero program a major consideration for the Planning Board
- Recommendation to eliminate interchanges (ramps coming off highway) at Rt. 355 & East Gude Drive and the Metro access road at Crabbs Branch

Item 3 - Updates: Jenifer Bolick there is silence from some employers since the pandemic, but not all and her team is providing helpful information pertaining to transit in responding to the crisis. They have also conducted outreach for the Commuter Services telework webinars, which can now be viewed on demand. Also updating employer information and sending out email blasts for upcoming events. The Traffic Mitigation Plans are to be filed out online as if they are during normal business operations. Other points discussed:

- Speed studies suspended because they are inaccurate due to the COVID crisis - conducting another after recovery
- The County's "Thrive 2050" general plan revision is in process, with the initial draft submitted to the Planning Board June 11 - land use implications
- Two telework seminars will be conducted to pass on information to employers & employees
- Climate change consultant team kick off meeting held 5/12 with workgroups – net zero by 2035
- Dockless vehicle pilot program in effect along with "Capital Bikeshare For All" program, which is the updated "McLiberty" program - provided for essential workers
- In the process of activating the "Bikematch" program – Commuter Services will manage the program - not sure it will have May 25 launch date
- Flash delayed in roll-out, probably later this fall along the Rt.29 corridor - bikeshare stations open along corridor
- Working on a Park & Ride Guide and table
- FY21 reductions are pending which will be a major impact greatly reducing County services – keeping watch for changes

Adjourn: Next meeting - July 1, 2020