

**Greater Shady Grove
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
June 8, 2022**

Voting

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

Ex Officio

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

Staff

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

Absent

Vacant / Montgomery County Police
Amy Frieder / Neighborhood Representative
McClellan Quinn / EYA
Paul Yanoshik / RE/MAX Realty Services

Guests

Jennifer Bolick / Van Eperen
Gary Erenrich / MCDOT
Gehmelle Johnson / NIH-National Cancer Institute
Rebecca Park / MCDOT
Patrick Reed / M-NCPPC
Laura Van Eperen / Van Eperen

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/ Minutes review: Members and guest introduced themselves. Minutes were approved

Item 3 – Crabbs Branch Way Extension Project: **Rebecca Park**, project manager for Washington Grove Connector (WG)/Crabbs Branch Way (CB) extension project reported that the two projects are combined into one as WG is approved for planning, design and construction and Crabbs Branch is funded for planning only. The project started in 2019 with public meetings & a Planning Board briefing. Also reported:

- Currently WG is at 35 percentage design however to bring CB up to 35 percentage design the traffic analysis needs to be completed before the Planning Board can approve the extension portion to move forward

- To design the trail connection to the town of Washington Grove, community meetings were held that developed three design alternatives – the Brown Street connection was chosen due to the direct path and lowest cost
- The Crabbs Branch Way extension conforms to the Complete Streets neighborhood connector guidelines and the County’s Bicycle Master Plan
- The shared use path contains space for bike & pedestrian travel with a landscaping buffer
- Impact assessment in planning stages only so costs are low until additions such as storm water management & utilities – these costs are estimated at \$2 million
- The cost was \$150 thousand for only constructing the trail

Ms. Park explained that the community of Washington Grove wanted the bike path for connectivity Amity Drive and easier access to retail and Shady Grove metro. Phase 1 of the project focuses on the purpose and need while phase 2 is 75 percentage of the design and calculates how much construction will cost. Discussion continued:

- Brown Street was the most direct, least environmental impactful option
- The Crabbs Branch traffic analysis has not been completed
- The trail will connect with the road extension via crosswalk
- Connecting the trail to the MARC station will be discussed during the planning phase

Ms. Park said she would return with an update on the project once phase 2 is completed.

Item 4 – Metro Update: **Gary Erenrich** updated the Committee on Metro operations citing organizational changes. **Paul Wiedefeld** was planning to retire in the summer but left earlier causing shifts in leadership. **Andy Off** will serve as Interim General Manager GM until **Randy Clark** permanently fills the position. Also discussed:

- Other issues with Metro include the 7000 series cars still out of commission and the lack of rail operators’ recertification resulting in a driver shortage
- Silver Line Phase 2 construction issues have delayed the opening preventing the turn-over of the Airport authority to Metro- future funding from AA will go to Metro to cover unresolvable maintenance issues including concrete wall panels and inoperable track heaters
- Communications executive has been placed in charge of overseeing the delivery & opening of the Phase 2 Silver Line station
- Although the Phase 2 Silver Line is not in operation, operators have been hired and trained for future opening adding costing Maryland \$20-30 million a year
- Metro’s pending financial cliff and efforts to increase ridership- buses are at 40 percentage pre-Covid levels
- County Council reinstated Ride On half price bus fares at \$1- need to figure out pricing for transfers
- 7000 series cars to return to rail service as Metro presented to the Board an automated system to monitor the wheels and axials of the cars
- New elections for Metro’s Board – Board members chosen based on qualifications rather than jurisdictions – **James Ports** is Maryland’s board member and Amtrak executive **Chris Zappi** is the alternate
- Metro has closed its last commuter store-the TRiPS commuter store and Mobile Commuter store is in operation

Item 5 – Employer TDM Plans: Jim Carlson presented the Company Connect to the Committee for approval reporting that the staff of 43 all Telework

Item 6 – Marketing Outreach update: Jenifer Bolick reported:

- Bike to Work Day was a success with 229 participants due to the teleworking employee focused outreach
- Conducting more Commuter Information Days (CIDs) for employers and residents
- More promotion of FareShare, telework programs and transportation information such as the e-scooter classes that will be taking place this Saturday
- Information on the new proposed FLASH bus route
- Obtaining nominees for COG Employer Recognition Awards

Item 7 – Updates: Sande Brecher announced:

- Bike To Work Day a great success with 1,660 participants throughout six pit stops – two bikes raffled off at each pit stop
- The discontinuing of the Falls Grove location due to insurance issues and the search for a replacement location
- The shared micromobility program is up & running with 700 e-scooters & e-bikes in the County-vendors Lime, Bird & Spin
- FY23 funds provided for replacement of aging bikeshare stations and the formation of new programs such as TravelSmart
- The 3rd quarter of the Climate work plan is on the County’s website-new climate website is being developed
- EV purchasing coop has hired Electrification Coalition-1000 residents have pledged that next vehicle will be an EV and 15 out of the goal of 50 businesses pledge to electrify their fleets

Item 8- Around the Room: Announcements:

- NCI staff of 2500 mostly telework with only 500 on site as they are working through the return-to-work phase with hoteling and combing leases to reduce cost.
- Commercial real estate market is going through changes with return-to-work costs and the confusion of increasing capacity on I 270/495 corridor
- Juneteenth celebration on June 18th will close Century Blvd – Ride On helping to shuttle people to the event
- Lakeforest Mall purchased last remaining parcel and may see changes to the transit center on the site

Adjourn: Next meeting September 7, 2022