

**Greater Shady Grove
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
January 4, 2023**

Voting

Steve Kelley / NIH – National Cancer Institute

McClellan Quinn / EYA

Benjamin Garcia / Westside at Shady Grove Metro

Ex Officio

Jake Adler / Upcounty Regional Services Center

Sandra Brecher / Representing MC Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) Director

Greg Wims / Upcounty Regional Services Center

Kirk Eby / City of Gaithersburg

Michael Wahl / Universities at Shady Grove

Staff

Nakengi Byrd / Montgomery County Commuter Services

Jim Carlson / Montgomery County Commuter Services

Absent

Paul Yanoshik / RE/MAX Realty Services

Guests

Deanna Archey / MCDOT – Ride On

Jennifer Bolick / Van Eperen

Gary Erenrich / MCDOT

Gehmelle Johnson / NIH-National Cancer Institute

Laura Van Eperen / Fovndry

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minute Review: Members and guest introduced themselves. November minutes reviewed.

Item 3 – Ride On Reimagined- Update: **Deanna Archey** updated the Committee on the Ride On Reimagined project, which is a comprehensive evaluation of the transit network to improve existing and future transportation needs of Montgomery County focusing on racial equity and climate change. The project coordinator's team consists of various divisions within the County government and the project was divided into two phases - 1st phase evaluated existing conditions and the 2nd phase developed concepts and recommendations, which will be continuing until June 24th.

Other discussion:

- The future planning of bus rapid transit (BRT)
- Establishing the goals of Vision Zero, the County's Climate Action Plan, and equitable access for outcomes and measures of the Ride On reimagined project

- Ridership was evaluated for pre-Covid and existing commutes near Metro stations; and areas not near transit hubs also saw an increase in ridership
- A map was presented showing areas with short commute times

As part of the public engagement process, there was a kick off and four pop-up promotional events with interactions of 600 individuals and 260 survey responses. Some of the comments were on topics such as safety & ADA concerns. Focus groups were divided into five groups of up to eight individuals, representing five areas – groups mark the areas where they would like to see expanded transit options.

Q &A / Discussion:

- The importance of micromobility in the survey results - results posted on website and finalizing language translations
- Evaluating Ride On & Metro's fare structure for equity
- Survey results revealed that 67% respondents own a vehicle
- Bus ridership is up to 80% of pre-Covid levels
- 58% of survey respondent income is less than \$75k annually, and both users and non-users of transit were surveyed
- Although two focus groups have been completed, there are members needed on focus group four for the Wheaton area
- Looking at the cost of Uber & Lyft and expanding the neighborhood Flex service
- Discussion regarding free fare evaluation – MC Council decided on 50% reduced fare of \$1
- Conducted an existing conditions analysis of Ride On bus stops & shelters
- A top priority of survey respondents was safety at bus stops
- Working on using Ride On extra to service the Great Seneca Science Corridor and establishing four new bus routes planned for 2024

Item 4 – Marketing Outreach Update:

- **Jennifer Bolick** is working with employers and residential properties in the TMD on the Commuter Survey, which is conducted every two years to assist MCDOT in allocating transportation resources – survey ended December 30th
- The County has six Bike To Work Day pit stops-the event takes place the last Friday in May
- Conducting employer commuter events where news and information is provided on-site to employees
- Transportation related information is sent weekly to businesses and residential properties
- Seeking applicants for the Council of Governments Employer Recognition Awards – June event

Item 5 – Metro Update: Jim Carlson update on Metro:

- **Michael Goldman** to replace **Chris Zappi** as the alternative Metro Board Member for Montgomery County
- Red Line service frequency will move from 10 minutes to eight minutes, and proposed funding in the budget will improve service to 5-minute headway during peak period
- Dulles Airport is operating on the Silver Line
- Potomac Yard Station to open sometime during 2023
- The Metro Board is holding public comment on the proposed budget February – March
- Redline turnbacks have been dropped from the GM proposed budget plan

- A new maximum fare increase of \$6.50 threatens to penalize long distance riders
- Other proposals include – \$2 night & weekend fare, eliminate peak fares, a low-income fare program based on SNAP eligibility, 50% fare reduction
- Bus ridership continues to be higher than rail-“Q” bus routes are up 40% from same time last year

Item 6 – Updates: Jim Carlson announced:

- Commuter Survey- last conducted in Fall of 2019
- Tentative calendar dates sent for the TMD Advisory Board meetings

Item 7- Meeting Adjourned: Next meeting March 1, 2023