

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
June 9, 2022**

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

**Item 3 – County Update: Sande Brecher** reported that Bike To Work Day was a success. This was the first in-person event in two years. Two bikes were raffled off at each of the Commuter Services hosted pitstops. Also announced:

- Bike Match MoCo program is looking for donations for its program
- Micromobility program is going well with 700 scooters and e-bikes available
- Funding received to update and replace parts for Capital Bikeshare stations
- TravelSmart Ambassador program planned to address climate change issues by reducing single vehicle usage and increasing alternative modes of travel throughout the County
- The third quarter of the Climate Action Planning report has been released, which shows the progress for achieving the 2035 net zero greenhouse gas emissions
- New Climate Action website is being put together
- Electric vehicle purchasing co-op program, pledging conversion to electric vehicles reached its goal of 1,000 residents to make next vehicle an electric vehicle but fell short of businesses pledge

**Gary Erenrich** reported that he drives a hybrid and the battery capacity is limited, which has implications requiring more time for charging for vehicles traveling longer distances. He said his vehicle averages 50 miles per charge for under \$2.

Also reported:

- On Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> the Planning Board will adopt an update to the long-range plan integrating greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reporting into the plan although it's not a Federal requirement
- There is a challenge in reaching the County's goals of GHG reduction in transportation, which is separate from the region's goals since the region will not meet the 50% reduction by 2030. This is due to many factors – best model projection is a 35% reduction by 2030
- Some areas do not have good transit options, which prevents GHG reduction efforts in transportation for areas heavily dependent on solo driving to commute to work
- The I-270 & I-495 Opportunity Lanes present another challenge: i.e., is the State going to live up to its promise of transit investment
- The \$300 million for ongoing operation funds from toll revenues will help to fund transportation projects in the area; however, a memorandum of understanding is needed between the County and State to distribute funds
- Future Metro General Manager Randy Clark has experience in Texas & Boston - Andy Off is the interim GM
- Many Metro operators have let their operation certification lapse
- An automated system has been installed to monitor the 7000 series cars wheels & axles
- Metro's FY24 budget will see a major deficit due to lack of Covid relief funds that helped Metro in the past

**Item 4 – Flash/BRT Update:** **Cory Pitts** updated the Committee regarding the Flash service, starting with the US29 corridor which opened in the fall of 2020. Although service was cut due to Covid issues, it is currently operating. The current Phase 2 operation is focused on more improvements to enhance service travel time & increasing pedestrian/cyclist access. Also reported:

- Looking at bus lane alternatives along 29 to optimize travel time, including intersection & interchange improvements, by receiving notifications of traffic conditions allowing drivers to divert routes if necessary
- Having an integrated management plan for corridors in the surrounding areas and receiving text alerts
- Implementing the over 200 recommendations for walking & biking infrastructure improvements along the Route 29 corridor

**Mr. Pitts** reported that the Study was completed in early 2021 that led to additional analysis. That will be reviewed at the US 29 Advisory Committee briefing being held tonight. The US 29 corridor project will ultimately see Planning Board approval for funding.

For the Veirs Mill project **Mr. Pitts** reported that the 7.6- mile corridor from Wheaton to Montgomery College Rockville campus will start construction in 2025. That will include intersection improvements, queue jumps. Base ridership is already present along the corridor.

The 22-mile route along US 355 will be about 35% designed by year's end as central phase funding has been received for the project. Other updates:

- Planning details in White Flint & Bethesda for commuters traveling south from Germantown and developing more ridership along the 355 corridor
- No lane repurposing for the 355 project
- There is continued coordination with other agencies such as FTA, MTA, SHA, Planning, among others
- Currently in the outreach phase of the project by seeking community input - online events & office hours provided to answer questions
- The New Hampshire portion is currently in the planning stages, with a study to look at phasing, station locations, and bus lane placement
- Public outreach for the multi-jurisdictional project includes a web map for leaving comments and community events
- The North Bethesda transitway from Montgomery Mall to White Flint or Grosvenor terminus - need to decide which terminal
- North Bethesda will connect to 355 & the Randolph Road portion will also be integrated
- Project planning will continue over the next six years, based on funding – Veirs Mill and 355 are funded for design and construction
- The Great Seneca Transit network in the Life Sciences portion of Shady Grove consists of four bus routes – funding is available to construct two of the four lines
- The Bus Priority project is also currently underway

During the Q & A **Mr. Pitts** announced that current Flash ridership along US 29 corridor is 2100 riders a day, which is favorable among the skepticism of some residents that question the viability of the service.

**Item 5 – Employer Outreach Update: Laura Van Eperen reported:**

- Bike to Work day was a success
- The TMD Outreach team is conducting Flash outreach to the community and providing other transportation updates
- Providing 'return to work' information regarding transportation to employers bringing back teleworkers

**Adjourn/ Next Meeting: July 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet  
June 6, 2022**

<b>Voting Members (12)</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Chamber Members (3)</b>			
Chris Kabatt	Wells + Associates		X
Julie Statland	Statland & Katz, Ltd.		X
Vacant			
<b>Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)</b>			
Harriet Quinn	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Vacant	North & West Sector Plan Area		
Chris Perry	CBD Resident	X	
<b>Employers less than 50 employees (3)</b>			
Vacant			
Vacant			
Vacant			
<b>Employers with 50 or more employees (3)</b>			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Vacant			
Vacant			
<b>Non-Voting Members (3)</b>			
Sandra Brecher, DOT-Commuter Services	MCDOT Director or Designee	X	
Larissa Klevin	M-NCPPC	X	
Jacob Newman	Silver Spring Regional Center	X	
Sgt. Kerry Moore	Montgomery County Police		X
<b>Staff</b>			
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
Jim Carlson	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
<b>Guests</b>			
Haeun Baek	DOT Summer Intern	X	
Henry Carson	SS Urban District	X	
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT	X	
Laura Van Eperen	Van Eperen & Co.	X	
Cory Pitts	DOT Planning Section Manager	X	
Gabriel Terrell	DOT Summer Intern	X	