

**Silver Spring
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
July 14, 2022**

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes: Members and guests introduced themselves.

Item 3 – Silver Spring Regional Services Center: Jacob Newman, Regional Services Center Director, explained the role of the Center, which serves as a liaison between the Silver Spring community and county government. He serves under the County Executive and works closely the County Council on issues such as the Purple Line, utility relocation and pedestrian walkability & safety, among other critical services.

Carson Henry is the Chief of Operations of the Urban District and works with **Mr. Newman**. He commented that out of the five regions, Silver Spring is the “smallest, loudest, and proudest” of the regional services centers. Also discussed:

- A business improvement district (BID) is coming soon to Silver Spring to assist business owners in the business district with main street initiatives and will be accepting applications from the businesses and organizations

Some issues he has dealt with include returning the community recreation center in Long Branch to its normal function and no longer housing the homeless – by providing targeted services such as free transportation and housing. Also:

- Issues at Quebec Terrace included suspended Route16 bus service due to security issues, parking wars, and dilapidated sidewalks uprooted by trees - conducted a Community Walk with residents and agencies and hosting a public hearing for parking
- Friendly Garden fire and the coordination of resources and interpretation assistance – resource fair conducted
- **Mr. Newman** is the only staff person at the RSC; however, **Mr. Henry** has a staff of 35 employees at the Urban District – additional staff has been approved for the RSC
- “Downtown Silver Spring” is the Urban District managed webpage that provides arts & entertainment information and quality of life issues such as safety, housing, noise, and the nighttime economy. <https://www.downtownsilverspring.com/>

Mr. Henry also discussed:

- The importance of creating harmony with a diverse population and providing a presence in downtown Silver Spring by providing marketing and outreach into the community
- On the ground outreach, documenting crime & safety issues, maintenance & repair, and interagency support to reduce homelessness
- Guiding the business economy by providing coordination of the development process with developers

The Committee discussed branding terms for the Central Business District and surrounding areas of Silver Spring.

Sandra Brecher announced receiving funding to create a new program in DOT to respond to the shifting focus from employment commuting to more diverse commuting patterns by providing outreach to markets not accessed in the past. She would like to meet with all Regional Service Centers for their insights for the program.

Item 4 – Metro Update:

Gary Erenrich announced:

- Metro’s new General Manager starts July 25th
- The Silver Line Phase 2 change over to Metro from the Airport Authority will complete the opening process so the new service can begin – however, significant construction issues remain.
- Public hearing regarding the District side of the Takoma Park Metro Station regarding new parking proposal – how much retainment of parking if portion is developed
- Metro released strategic service plan for stations – more bus layover space needed at SS Transit Center
- Per legislation, MARC train consultants will conduct a study to expand & improve service by adding 2-way and midday service, also a 3rd track – the Brunswick line runs through Silver Spring Transit Center
- Metro closed last commuter retail store leaving the TRiPS and Mobile Commuter Store the remaining options in the area
- Metro conducting pilot of reduced and lower fares in lower income neighborhoods -1/2 price
- Working with MDOT & Metro to improve bus circulation in Silver Spring by installing right turn lanes, bus queue jumping and signal prioritization
- Metro ridership is increasing – Silver Spring seeing the most increase
- Micromobility corrals need more corrals for 600-700 scooters ridden daily

Item 5 – Employer TDM Plans/Reports: Mr. Carlson presented two TDM plans to the Committee for review.

The Committee recommended approval of the TDM plans by MCDOT Director.

Item 6 – Employer Outreach Update: Jennifer Bolick announced:

- Working with employers on TDM plans and assisting them with integrating back into the office - hybrid office and telework situations
- Providing traffic information, such as sinkhole on I-270 and Peace Walk
- COG award winner and processing award applications
- The Silver Spring directory referenced by **Mr. Newman** is a great resource

Item 7 – Updates: Announced:

- Ride-On charging reduced \$1 fare starting August 1st.
- Silver Spring Downtown & Adjacent Communities plan approved – working on zoning text amendment
- The Climate Action Plan for FY22 final report will be out in 4-6 weeks
- EV purchasing Co-Op reached its goal of 1000 residents pledging next car will be an EV
- Pedestrian Master Plan will be discussed at the next Joint TMD Meeting on September 28th

Larissa Klevan gave brief highlights of the Silver Spring Downtown and Adjacent Communities Plan. The Planning Team is working on the zoning text amendment that covers the language of the code, and sectional map amendment which covers the code itself. The Zoning Text Amendment & map amendment are due in September and October. The County Council adoption of the plan on May 26th changed the boundaries in that it does not include as much of the adjacent communities but does include the entire Silver Spring TMD. Other recommendations of the plan include:

- The inner/outer portions of the green loop include connections to improve walking & biking in a multimodal network
- Additional connections across rail tracks and a new pedestrian bridge along East-West Hwy into the Ripley district and another connection at Falklands North
- Two new separated bikeways on Silver Spring Avenue that will connect over the CSX tracks
- High visibility marked crosswalks at 15 intersections for the pedestrian network
- Relocations of “transit only” travel lanes for some segments along Georgia Ave. & Colesville Rd. and 2 options for BRT and future implementation beyond the masterplan
- Recommendations for new roadways including a new downtown street with 70 ft right of way street extensions at Cameron Street Garage- continuing Shared Streets project with 3 additional locations
- The need to confirm the mode share goal of 60% or 65% non-auto driver mode share (NADMS)
- Redevelopment recommendations for the Parking Lot District for underutilized garages; however, some parking will remain

Ms. Klevan reported that **Iftin Thompson** is no longer with Park and Planning and they are in the process of hiring a replacement, she has been with the agency since January.

Item 8 – Around the Room:

- **Mr. Carlson** announced that he was working on increasing committee membership
- Seeking a solution to the missing sidewalk along the south bound Rt. 29 at the Metro bus stop at Crestmore due to resurfacing of the area - follow up with SHA, MC311, **Wade Holland** and **Delegate Charkoudian**
- An update on the Rt.29 mobility study was requested to be placed on an upcoming meeting agenda due to recommended changes north of Sligo

Adjourn/ Next Meeting: September 28, 2022

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet
July 14, 2022**

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