

**Silver Spring
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
January 13, 2022**

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

Item 3 – Metro Update: Gary Erenrich briefed the committee on Metro’s budget, policies, and transit related legislation. As WMATA works to bring back ridership to pre-pandemic levels, the WMAT Board is tasked with how to respond to Covid and establish regular commuting patterns for planning. Although the pandemic started to affect ridership in the 4th quarter of FY20, strides have been made with FY22 revenue projections being higher than budgeted. Also reported:

- FY23 Public Hearing on Feb. 9th online in College Park – questionnaire
- FY23 budget projections show ridership growth from 34% to 53% in FY25, and up to 75% by FY25 for restored ridership
- Ways to restore ridership include \$2 weekend rail flat rate, free bus to rail transfer, bus pass discounts, and adding a \$5 bonus to Smartrip cards when adding \$20 in cash - controversial because many low-income riders are not able to add that much at once
- Discussion regarding ways Metro is looking to reduce the upcoming deficit without Federal relief funding available to maintain staff & operations
- Budget increases, such as collective bargaining agreements, COLA, Phase 2 of the Silver Line and the Potomac Yard station will add to Metro’s deficit
- The State of Maryland pays 100% of the cost for Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties for Metro, which also add to the FY24 shortfall
- Discussion regarding the balancing act between using Federal funds to incentivize ridership or saving funds to help offset the upcoming FY24 budget gap
- Maryland and Virginia law limits the amount of Metro subsidy to only 3% a year
- Staffing shortages due to Covid resulting in schedule cutbacks to adjust for missed trips – Metro currently short 100 operators
- Saturday schedule operations with additional service on high ridership routes

Mr. Erenrich announced that the Shady Grove and Rockville stations will reopen Sunday, Jan. 16th. The opening was delayed five weeks due to the removal of trains from Shady Grove cold storage to replace the malfunctioning 7000 series cars. Also reported:

- Shuttle service carried 5,000 passengers a day during Rockville & Shady Grove station closure
- Jurisdictions approved \$500 million a year dedicated funding for Metro
- Opportunities for capital funding allow for preventive maintenance, which can be used for operations under the Infrastructure Bill
- Past Federal funding has allowed Metro to keep personnel so they will be available when service returns, as it is difficult to train new hires
- The future of teleworking will see a decline of the 5-day work week in the office and the need to adjust operation funds
- Training issues due to difficulty in obtaining licensing from the Department of Motor Vehicles for Drivers

Pending transportation bills in Anapolis :

- HB208-Transit Driver Assault penalty increase – 12 assaults a year average
- SB210-Commuter Benefits Bill – MDOT is expanding state tax benefits for employers to include carpooling, biking, walking credits; also assistance with telecommuting costs-max still \$100, testimony can be submitted for the hearing Monday
- HB65-Election Law – provide bus transportation to polling sites
- HB53-Bus lanes camera enforcement
- Bill to allow buses to use shoulders
- Term limitations for Washington Transit Council

Item 4 – Employer TDM Plans: Mr. Carlson reported that five Companies meet the requirements and Nando's & Starbucks both submitted voluntary plans (< 25 employees).

The Committee accepted the plans be submitted to MCDOT for approval

Item 5 – Employer Outreach Update: Jennifer Bolick reported:

- Working with employers to complete TDM plans
- Providing transportation updates such as Downtown Silver Spring & Adjacent Communities
- Opening of the Rockville & Shady Grove Metro stations
- Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards nomination forms
- Assisting employers with navigating to return to work, providing telework plans & the FareShare program

Item 6 – Updates: Mr. Carlson also discussed Committee vacancies reporting that the slot for the Chamber has been filled. Also announced:

- Electric Vehicle Co-op pilot has started which is part of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) initiatives
- CAP 2nd quarter report available on line
- Electric Microgrid construction for operating electric buses which are transitioning to zero emissions as part of the CAP

Adjourn

Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet

January 13, 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	
Iftin Thompson	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			
Jennifer Bolick	Van Eperen & Co.	X	
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT	X	
Laura Van Eperen	Van Eperen & Co.	X	