

**Silver Spring
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
July 8, 2021**

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

Item 3 – Metro Update: Gary Erenrich updated the Committee on the status of Metro, stating that the Sustainability Plan has been adopted to replace the bus fleet with electric vehicles. Also reported:

- 50-cent bus to rail transfer will now be free – exiting Metrorail and transferring to bus will now be free; Ride On is already free
- Seniors ride free; however, Montgomery County government employees pay to ride Metro
- Pre-Covid revenue was calculated to \$1 million; however, there is no plan so far from Metro to reimburse the County
- A plan to regulate passes for all buses in the region, such as weekly bus passes
- Ride On was getting 15%-20% of fare box recovery and discussions if kids should ride free
- July 19th restarting Flex Service on Wheaton/Glenmont - Rockville area with the potential to expand service
- Closure of Red Line - Twinbrook to Shady Grove from Sept. to Dec. 2021 to replace 45 yr. old platform canopy

Mr. Erenrich discussed the traffic relief plan for the American Legion bridge, explaining that the new Recommended Preferred Alternative (RPA) is to remove improvements for Old Georgetown Rd., focusing improvements for parks and residential areas. Also discussed:

- Phase 1 divided North & South-South Alt to I-270 to I-370
- North I-370 to Frederick County RT. 115
- The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) must show that projects in Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) do not worsen air quality to receive Federal funding
- June 21st was the deadline to submit projects and the TBP adopted the removal, which disturbed MDOT and Virginia which has public-private partnership (P3) contracts in process for the American Legion Bridge hot lanes
- At the next July 23rd TPB meeting, there will be a new resolution to re-add the project – jurisdictions changed their minds regarding supporting removal of the project due to pressure from Frederick and Prince Georges counties
- MoCo trying to figure out how to get transportation projects to fit better with goals of increasing transit ridership
- Discussion regarding TPB weighted voting of jurisdictions based on population

Mr. Erenrich explained how the public-private partnerships went astray during the Purple Line project, costing the State an additional \$100 million - P3's caveat of private partner receiving \$50 million even if they back away from contract. Also reported:

- Can the State afford to manage \$6 billion for a 50- year contract for Transit such as MD 355 BRT bus lane?
- Why stop Phase 1 south at 370 of the American Legion Bridge, as it will create a huge bottle neck? Frederick & Clarksburg support continuing Phase 1 because will help to alleviate traffic along I-270

- The Alternative Plan follows traditional information process during construction to receive money from the Federal infrastructure bill
- The CLRP long range plan must be approved by 12/1/21 otherwise the lapse in plan will prevent spending Federal funds

Item 4 – Employer TDM Plans: The Committee recommended nine employer TDM plans for approval.

Item 5 – Employer Outreach Updates: Sande Brecher reported:

- Now that the Climate Action Plan has been introduced to the public, the next phase is implementation of the annual work plan
- Redesigning Ride On bus routes
- Electric Vehicle group buy initiative is underway
- The NextGen TDM Executive Regulations to be sent to CE's office
- The use of micromobility to fill in 1st mile last mile transportation gaps such as e-scooters and the flex pilot for those unable to ride bikes or walk long distances – vehicles designed for disabled people
- MC Employers swept the Council of Governments Employer Recognition awards for the 2nd year in a row
- The White Oak TMD is now funded by TMD fees revenue collected in the area - move forward to form an advisory committee
- '20 Is Plenty' initiative to reduce speeds – streets identified

Jim Carlson discussed voting to fill the vacant Chair and Vice Chair positions-discussion tabled to provide time notify members and discuss.

Item 6 – Updates: Jenifer Bolick reported:

- Reaching out to employers to update TDM plans
- Providing transportation news information to employers
- Pushing the FareShare program while funding is available
- Offering info on telework and providing consulting sessions with knowledgeable contractor

The Committee discussed their offices individual plans for returning to work. **Dar Maxwell** reported:

- Her office has formed a committee to deal with Covid related issues such as mandatory vaccines
- Taking the opportunity to update their HVAC system while moving into a new building
- Looking to return to work in September
- Teleworking two days a week and being present for all staff meetings

Mike Price reported they are planning to go back into the office in September – however, many details still need to be worked out such as mask usage and vaccine mandates. He sees the return as a hybrid telework/in person arrangement. He worries about the surrounding businesses that depend on office staff for patronage.

The Committee discussed having joint meetings a few times a year.

Adjourn:

Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet

July 8, 2021

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		X	
Dar Maxwell	Panagora Group	X	
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	
Reemberto Rodriguez	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	
Henry Carson	SS Urban District	X	
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT	X	
Christine McGrew	M-NCPPC	X	
Laura Van Eperen	Van Eperen & Co.	X	