

**Silver Spring
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
December 9, 2021**

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Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes Review: Members and guest introduced themselves. Minutes from July and September’s All TMD meetings were submitted for review.

Item 3 – Ride On Reimagined Study: Deanna Archey provided highlights on the scope of the Ride On Reimagined Study, explaining that the study will encompass every aspect of transit to implement into a plan. The Ride On system has been in service for 40+ years, starting as a local neighborhood service to complement Metro and has adapted operations to growth changes, expanding service to include Ride On Extra with its limited stop service on Route 355, the on-demand Flex that operates in two zones and the Flash service along Route 29. Metro is conducting a similar study which will be inclusive in Ride On’s analysis that will cover transit data such as ridership, service coverage and travel analysis. **Ms. Archey** discussed the study categories:

- Market Analysis will gather data from previous surveys and trip generations
- Land Use will cover studies from MC, M-NCPPC and Council of Governments (COG) evaluating how data fits
- Infrastructure will discuss vehicle housing such as garages, charging stations and other structure for identifying services stop locations, also real time system usage
- Technology, which is closely tied with Infrastructure, will analyze usage of the Automatic Vehicle Locator system – AVL, Real Time system and zero emissions and Autonomous Vehicles
- Operations & Fleet will look at best practices to address the operator shortage and increase recruitment and retention
- Public Engagement will consist of a draft presentation of scope & service of the study for public feedback
- Next Steps: Draft posted on website till November 1st and review of 200 comments for a Study Kick Off in January 2022 for 18-24 months, then plan implementation in FY24

The Q&A discussion followed:

- Opportunity for stakeholder input and progress updates during scope plan
- Community comments included addressing gaps in service and providing direct service to specific places in the County
- Policy trade offs of the study such as free fares, first and last mile – Ride On fares will be free until end of FY22 (June 30)
- Autonomous Vehicle implementation will be internal at first before expanding on street

Item 4 – Metro Update: Gary Erenrich reported that is also conducting a study to examine the bus system, and MCDOT is spearheading the bus service in Montgomery County by conducting the analysis, then coordinating with Metro. Also reported:

- Alexandria, Virginia has also completed a bus study analysis with tradeoffs of service frequency & expansion of route structure – adopted a free fare system
- Public hearing for the Metro FY23 budget in late January or early February – currently, no service cuts and extending rail service to 12 AM weekly and 1 AM weekends, expanding bus service along high ridership routes to reduce over crowding

- Discussion regarding how the three Federal funding bills that have kept Ride On system afloat operationally will lead to a budget gap crisis when funds run out in FY24
- The addition of the Silver Line extension and Potomac Yard station opening will add cost to FY23 budget
- Rockville and Shady Grove station due to reopen Sunday, January 16th from Rockville canopy construction completion
- New fare gates at Metro providing more fare payment options
- Shuttle buses working well between Twinbrook and Shady Grove during the canopy construction project – faster than local bus service
- Discussion on lessons learned from the malfunctioning 7000 series cars being pulled out of service is the need to have a diversified fleet of rail cars as the 8000 series is needed to replace the 2000 & 3000 cars
- Metro due to approve bus fleet service plans to set standards for service levels and honor fare proposals of free bus to rail transfer, \$2 late night rail fare to boost nighttime economy, offering regional bus pass bonuses to SmarTrip cards- \$5 given for \$25 SmarTrip purchase and reduced day passes for teleworkers
- Discussion on Title 6 analysis of Silver Line resulted in additional \$20 million to offset impact on low-income commuters
- Discussion of MoCo urging of Metro to shorten its alternative fuel fleet transfer mandate of 2045 to help climate change

The Q&A discussion consisted of:

- Planning to offset the negative effects of the FY24 budget gap on low-income commuters
- Jurisdiction subsidies to Metro can increase only 3% a year
- Bond funds for Capital Improvement process
- Metro to decide on White Flint Station name change – will cost about \$300K

Item 5 – Employer TDM Plans: Jim Carlson Presented 20 TDM plans for Committee review; plans were recommended for approval.

Item 6 – Employer Outreach Update: Jennifer Bolick reported:

- Employer outreach for TDM plan completion
- The annual Walk & Ride challenge was a success
- Employer outreach for COG Employer Recognition Awards submissions
- E-blast info regarding Shady Grove and Rockville station reopening and Ride On free fare continuation

Item 7 – Updates: Reported:

- Purple Line slides provided for an update
- Discussion on filling vacant Committee slots-targeting advertising for recruitment – United Therapeutics as a candidate
- TMD Advisory Committee meetings are back to the nine times per year schedule

Adjourn/Next Meeting: January 13, 2022

Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet

December 9, 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			
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			
Deanna Archey	MCDOT-Ride On	X	
Jennifer Bolick	Van Eperen & Co.	X	
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT	X	
Laura Van Eperen	Van Eperen & Co.	X	