

**Silver Spring
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
May 12, 2016**

Abbreviations

MCDOT = Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation

TMAg = Traffic Mitigation Agreement

Item 1, 2 & 3 –Introductions/Minutes Review/Chair Comments: Chair **Jim Bunch** called meeting to order – members and guests introduced themselves. **Mr. Bunch** discussed drafting a letter to address issues at the Silver Spring Transit Center, regarding problems with vehicle and pedestrian circulation.

April meeting minutes were tabled.

Item 4 – Bikeshare/SafeTrack/Bus Rapid Transit Updates: **Anne Root**, Montgomery County Bikeshare Program Manager, reported on the status of the bikeshare system. She said the system has been in operation for two and a half years, currently has 57 stations, with recently acquired additional stations coming. Some stations were purchased leveraging County funds with State, Federal and private funding using bonds and grants. Operating costs are paid by the County. Other features of the system:

- New Wheaton stations paid for with a grant and a bond – used to purchase five new stations.
- Grants are supplemented by developer contributions.
- Bikesharing provisions are included in most traffic mitigation agreements (TMAgs).
- Revenue is based on the jurisdiction where membership is purchased – 50 percent of revenue is returned and used for operating costs.
- Bikes are used for short term first and last mile trips.
- Fee structure explained.
- September 2014 and August 2015 had the highest ridership – lunchtime shows popular ridership.
- Helmets can be purchased for \$16; group sponsorships and 24-hour coupons are also available.
- Montgomery County was one of the first to offer free memberships for low income commuters.
- Theft is not a problem. Issues arise for the most part when tourists keep bikes due to misunderstanding the system.
- Discussion on riding on the sidewalk – jurisdiction specific.
- Stations are installed based on having safe and clear access to bike paths – stations reviewed by Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) and Traffic Engineering Division.
- The Bike Master Plan provides a basis for requesting developers to build bike facilities, including bikeshare facilities.
- Bikeshare stations are modular and movable.
- Bikes are rebalanced by a contractor providing availability at all stations throughout the day.
- Discussion of including bikeshare as a pretax benefit.

Gary Erenrich, MCDOT Acting Deputy Director for Transportation Policy, gave an overview of Metro's *SafeTrack* maintenance plan to repair the rail system over the next year. The first plan presented by Metro was not approved by the Federal Transit Administration because the agency wanted immediate attention on sections of the rail system between Medical Center and Van Ness due to water infiltration.

Starting June 3rd single tracking and closings will be conducted in 15 segments of the system, three of which affect the Red Line:

- Aug. 1st -8th single tracking between Silver Spring-Ft. Totten
- Single tracking between Shady Grove-Twinbrook
- Oct. 10th- Nov. 2nd between NoMa-Ft Totten

Mr. Erenrich said he is working with Maryland Transit Administration and MARC to extend service. Ride On is looking into supplementing Metro's plan with buses that would normally be retired when new shipments of buses come in; however, getting new drivers for the buses is the issue.

He said during the track work maintenance would be the best time to implement Express Q bus service along the Veirs Mill corridor. Other project updates discussed:

- The Bus Rapid Transit System:
 - County Executive wants the project to be completed in four years
 - Upcoming Corridor Advisory meetings-US 29
 - Grant application submitted April 29th to move the project forward
- Purple Line – The Planning Board to alter station stop at the Silver Spring Transit Center. No longer 80 ft in the air, now will be level with the 3rd deck of the transit center, saving \$30 million.
- Q bus service along Veirs Mill corridor – The County is requesting the State to fund \$1.8 million for new bus service (Q9) on top of existing service to run during rush hour.
- Discussion regarding Metro's funding – \$1 billion annual budget is spent largely on infrastructure repair, such as water seepage:
 - Metro has funds but can't spend fast enough due to contractual and engineering processes
- The Safe Track Presentation will be posted the County's website

Item 5 – Updates: Mr. Carlson announced:

- Increase of the State Tax Credit Program – Employers may claim a \$100/month per employee credit for out-of-pocket transit & vanpool benefits, up from \$50/mo.
- **Tim Balinskis** of Sharp & Co. said there are upcoming street closures for the Taste of the World Fenton, taking place Sunday, May 15th.
- **Jay Elvoe** reported that former Silver Spring planner **Gus Bowman** gave a presentation on the history of Silver Spring to the Citizen Advisory Board.
- As a member of the Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Board, **Mr. Elvoe** said the Bike Master Plan only addresses broad issues and is not in the detailed planning stages
 - **Mr. Bunch** asked that the Committee brainstorm how to best influence the Bike Master Plan and requested that it be a future agenda item.

Around the Room: The Committee discussed having Police representation at meetings to address increasing traffic violations in the CBD. **Michael Ruane** was transferred to the Second District and it was suggested reaching out to **Sgt. Ruane's** replacement, **Nathan Ratenofsky** or at least have a place to forward Committee concerns for action. **Mr. Bunch** asked that this be made an action item as well as representation from the Urban district.

Adjourn: Next meeting June 9, 2016

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet
May 12, 2016**

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Chris Kabatt	Wells + Associates	X	
Michael Meszaros	Digital Industry, Inc.	X	
Vacant			
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Jim Bunch / Vice Chair	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Phil Olivetti	North & West Sector Plan Area	X	
Randall McLeod	CBD Resident		X
Employers less than 50 employees (3)			
Valerie Spencer	MayaTech	X	
Vacant			
Wendy Melis	SWANA	X	
Employers with 50 or more employees (3)			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Adenia Bradley	Southern Management		X
Vacant			
Non-Voting Members (3)			
Sandra Brecher, DOT-Commuter Services	MCDOT Director or Designee		X
Matthew Folden	M-NCPPC		X
Reemberto Rodriguez	Silver Spring Regional Center		X
Sgt. Michael Ruane	Montgomery County Police		X
Staff			
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
Jim Carlson	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
Guests			
Helene Brinson	Easter Seals	X	
Jay Elvove	MC Resident	X	
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT	X	
Andrew Fisher	for Reemberto Rodriguez	X	
Kevin Price	Sharp & Co.	X	
Anne Root	MCDOT	X	
Juanita Stewart	Greater SS Chamber	X	