

**Silver Spring
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
November 9, 2017**

Items 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes: Co-Chair **Michael Meszaros** called the meeting to order. Members and guests introduced themselves. September's minutes were accepted.

Gary Erenrich updated the Committee on “Visualize 2045” as projects are moving forward.

Visualize 2045 has two parts – a fiscal constraint portion that shows funding available for projects, and a “wish list” not hindered by financial constraints. The wish list came about in part because the Council of Governments (COG) Transportation Planning Board (TPB) was not seeing significant improvements in traffic congestion although money was being spent on various projects. One reason for this, and something that is sometimes overlooked, is the increasing regional population growth while expansion of the road network is largely constrained.

Also discussed:

- Ten projects to improve congestion were produced by the Long-Range Task Force and vetted by technical staff
- Of the 10 projects, N. Potomac River crossing is the most controversial over construction concerns as Maryland State will be building on the Virginia border – the municipalities (Gaithersburg, Takoma Park and Rockville) voted against County Council in having the project included in the study; however, debate continues
- The TPB meeting on November 15th will announce the results of the Long-Range Task Force analysis of planned projects and initiatives – followed by Dec. 5th meeting project to determine recommendations, although funds not available.
- Discussion regarding a priority letter in which the County Council and Executive requests funds from the State for local projects

Item 3 – Dockless Bikeshare Pilot: **Mr. Erenrich** presented information on the Silver Spring “Dockless Bikeshare” pilot. Vendors will provide up 350 bikes from national and international companies to do a demo program in the downtown Silver Spring area. With the dockless system the need for docking bikes is eliminated, allowing ease of travel and reducing out of the way travel to find docking stations as in the Capital Bikeshare (CaBi) system.

Mr. Erenrich explained that the CaBi system is funded by public/private partnership. The company Motivate operates the system. The County spends \$60,000 for dock installation and \$25,000 annually per station for operation costs. Those costs primarily involve re-balancing the bikes.

The dockless system costs are covered by the vendors and bikes are tracked via GPS system using a mobile app to access bikes. The County only covers facilitation costs. Other points covered:

- The pilot program is for six months to monitor how well the dockless system operates in the Silver Spring CBD – vandalism is more of a concern than theft since nothing of use can be stolen from bikes
- Two companies - Ofo and Lime Bike - are currently in the pilot and will usually respond to issues within one hour
- Commuter Services can also be contacted with comments or complaints
- Discussion regarding bike parking issues interfering with public access

- There are two areas of preferred parking identified by striping and signs at the Silver Spring Transit Center and Veterans Plaza
- Although the pilot focuses on downtown Silver Spring the “geo fence” GPS boundary includes the Forest Glen residential area
- The new Transit app on smartphones shows all dockless bike locations plus bus & rail transit info
- Discussion regarding going outside of geo fence and associated penalties – email notifications and point system
- Discussion of the County’s Memorandum of Understanding with vendors – monthly reports of bike travel will be provided for planning purposes – route information is captured for dockless bikes, unlike CaBi
- Discussion of foldable cardboard helmets and the possibility of them being widely used with the bikeshare system

Item 4 – Employer Outreach Update: The Commuter Surveys have been sent and a push to employers to distribute to their employees. Most surveys are sent electronically and paper copies are available for those without computer access.

Michael Price reported on the success of Discovery’s Commuter Day that was held on October 24th. Seven employees switched to using transit rather than driving. Discovery’s commuter benefits include:

- Free bike subsidies and shoes for employees who walk to work.
- Carpool and hybrid vehicle reduced pricing

Item 5 – County Updates: Sande Brecher explained that the new Senate tax plan may take away employer’s ability to deduct benefits from their taxes. She also reported the TRiPS Commuter Store extended hours: M-F 6am – 6pm and Sat. & Sun. 6am – 5pm. There is a wider selection of fare media including MARC, MTA, Peter Pan tickets and CaBi membership key fobs.

Also discussed:

- Issue with homeless individuals using bus shelters for sleeping, blocking riders from sitting on benches. The County is working with Police and County Attorney, other solutions such as signage and leaning benches for sitting not leaning
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Open Houses for Rt. 29 Limited Stop Service - Nov.29th @ 6:30pm at the East County Regional Services Center
- Metro Red Line 2-week closure between Silver Spring and Ft. Totten stations Nov. 25-Dec.10 – use MARC Train as an alternative
- Silver Spring Purple Line Advisory meeting last Monday Nov.6 – utility placement, Bonifant lane shut down with signage redirecting traffic, concerns with construction closures and coordination

Adjourn/Next Meeting: December 14, 2017

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet
November 9, 2017**

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Chris Kabatt	Wells + Associates		X
Michael Meszaros	Digital Industry, Inc.	X	
Juanita Stewart	The Peterson Companies		X
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			
Vacant			
Employers with 50 or more employees			
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	
Katie Mencarini	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			
Debra Buck	Van Eperen & Co.	X	
Jay Elvove	SSCAB	X	
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT	X	
Harriet Quinn	4-Corners Resident	X	
Laura Van Eperen	Van Eperen & Co.	X	