

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
December 14, 2017**

**Item 1, 2 – Introductions/Minutes/Chair Comments:** **Jim Bunch** called meeting to order and members and guests introduced themselves. Meeting minutes were tabled.

**Item 3 – US 29 Bus Rapid Transit Update:** **Darcy Buckley**, MCDOT director’s office, provided an update of the US29 BRT project, an additional service to improve mobility and reliability. She explained the two service patterns: Burtonsville to the Silver Spring Transit Center and Briggs Chaney Park & Ride to the Transit Center. Buses will run every seven minutes during rush hour and 15 minutes at off-peak times. No additional lanes will be used for service since buses will operate on shoulder lanes and in mixed traffic.

- System features include off boarding payment, real-time information, level boarding from any door, Wi-Fi & USB, and signal prioritization
- Project schedule: Finishing preliminary design with completion in late 2018 with expected operations by 2020
- Budget of \$31.5 million with 10 million from Federal grant
- Electric vehicle technology was too new to use for the BRT system
- Project benefits-travel times savings, connectivity & access, serves as an additional option

**Ms. Buckley** discussed the prototype of 11 stations funded by a Council of Governments (COG) grant and working with stakeholders to make adaptable in different environments, including features such as wind screens, roof panels, trash receptacles and landscaping. Other features:

- A station located on the second level of the Silver Spring Transit Center
- Station located at Montgomery Arms – smaller platform to lessen historical building impact
- Station at Blair High School – midblock crossing and possible traffic light installation
- Burnt Mills at Trader Joe’s shows Capital Bikeshare station
- “Floating” stations with bike lanes located behind
- Layover stations at Briggs Chaney Park & Ride and Burtonsville

March Open Houses will cover changes to local services. BRT bus fares are the same as the Ride On and Metro base fare.

**Item 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue/Wayne Project:** **Matt Johnson**, Bicycle & Pedestrian Area (BiPPA) Program Manager for MCDOT, explained that the County has 30 BiPPA areas, eight of which are State designated and one is in Silver Spring. The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget has \$2 million a year to fund BiPPA. Silver Spring BiPPA projects include:

- Replacement of curb ramps making them ADA compliant
- Crosswalk on Georgia at Fenwick Lane
- Bike lanes

**Mr. Johnson** also discussed:

- BiPPA program goals – Safety (“Vision Zero” goal: zero deaths from traffic crashes)
  - Improve access, reliability, connectivity and travel alternatives
  - Increase bike & walk mode shares
  - Reduce cyclist and pedestrian stress while creating travel alternatives

- Newly constructed bike lanes on Fenton creating right turn issues for vehicles – no right turns on Fenton except at Wayne, reducing pedestrian & bike accidents
- Pepco and WSSC utility work and rock removal at the United Therapeutics is delaying bike construction and blocking bikes from turning
- Bike lanes will now be extended along Spring Street – extension was previously on hold due to bridge reconstruction from the Purple Line project
- On Wayne, 2-way separated bike lanes with lanes located behind bus stops called “floating bus stops” which prevent buses from blocking bike lanes and reducing hazards to cyclists
  - Not turning the existing asphalt lane on Wayne into a bike lane because it’s too elevated to safely function with the pedestrian path next to it – a single sidewalk will replace what is currently at that location, creating more green space
  - Moving curb back eight feet creating an apron to protect cyclist from turning cars by slowing them down
  - Improving traffic by banning right turns and splitting the signal phase, allowing pedestrians more crossing time at Colesville and Wayne

**Item 5 – Employer Outreach Update: Debra Buck reported:**

- Final outreach in November to employers to respond to the commuter survey
- Conducting Commuter Information Days (CIDs) at area employers

**Item 6 – County Updates: Cpl. John Distel reported:**

- Pedestrian and traffic enforcement detail conducted at Georgia Ave and Colesville Rd three times a month – working with a crew of six officers
- High-visibility enforcement targeting cell phone usage and aggressive driving
- Focus on vehicles turning right at No Turn on Red on Georgia Ave and Colesville Rd – problem with signage visibility
- Bus citations – the State maintains data on transit system citations, as local traffic detail is not able to consolidate data to differentiate public buses from vehicles

Discussion continued regarding issues with dockless bikes left in places that block public right-of-way in violation of ADA regulations. There are currently two designated areas where riders can leave bikes; however, they can be left anywhere inside the Silver Spring geo-fencing area. Issues discussed:

- LimeBike rep explained that the company is refining its smart phone app to notify riders if they are parking bikes in an undesignated area
- Identifying places not to park to work with the existing transit options available to compliment and not restrict
- Dedicated team to relocating bikes
- Differing regulations of jurisdictions regarding ADA - DC provides five-foot sidewalk clearance, Montgomery County – eight feet
- Bikes repositioned based on usage
- Educating the public on the dockless system

**Ms. Brecher:**

- Tax reform changes – employers can still give tax-free transit benefits to their employees; however, they will no longer be able to deduct the benefit as a business expense
- Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) study is an educational campaign focusing on infrastructure projects, such as floating bus stops and separated bike lanes

**Adjourn** – Next meeting date: January 11, 2018

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet  
December 14, 2017**

<b>Voting Members (12)</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Chamber Members (3)</b>			
Chris Kabatt	Wells + Associates		X
Michael Meszaros / Co-Chair	Digital Industry, Inc.	X	
Vacant			
<b>Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)</b>			
Jim Bunch / Co-Chair	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Phil Olivetti	North & West Sector Plan Area	X	
Randall McLeod	CBD Resident		X
<b>Employers less than 50 employees (3)</b>			
Valerie Spencer	MayaTech	X	
Vacant			
Vacant			
<b>Employers with 50 or more employees (3)</b>			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Adenia Bradley	Southern Management		X
Vacant			
<b>Non-Voting Members (3)</b>			
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
<b>Staff</b>			
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
Jim Carlson	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
<b>Guests</b>			
Jennifer Bolick	Van Eperen & Co.	X	
Debra Buck	Van Eperen & Co.	X	
Darcy Buckley	MCDOT	X	
Cpl. John Distel	MC Police	X	
Jay Elvove	SSCAB	X	
Matt Johnson	MCDOT	X	
Lou Mozzano	Lime Bike	X	
Harriet Quinn	MC Resident	X	
Mel Tull	Lee Development	X	