

**Silver Spring
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
February 8, 2018**

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes: Members and guests introduced themselves. Meeting minutes were tabled.

Item 3 – Montgomery County Planning Commission Update: Michael Meszaros went over his testimony regarding bike infrastructure construction and the resulting traffic issues, the floating bus stop at Pershing Drive. Mr. Meszaros noted that the design was not mentioned in the planning meeting – it restricts vehicular traffic by removing a travel lane, making right turns more difficult and causing back-up. He believes buses and bikes can share lanes; however, the floating stop design makes vehicle circulation worse. Other issues noted:

- Cyclists not stopping at red lights or following traffic rules and lack of citations for infractions
- Lanes too narrow for large vehicles – riding up on sidewalk when making turns

Item 4 – Autonomous Vehicles and the Future of Mobility: Chevy Chase Acura owner John Bowis provided a presentation on autonomous vehicles. Mr. Bowis became interested in the subject in 2004. It became apparent that the autonomous vehicle movement would become transformative and disruptive to his industry, and he researched it to adapt the coming changes into his business model. Points in his discussion:

- The joy of driving is gone due to congestion, cost of ownership, accidents and traffic enforcement fees
- Human error is main cause of vehicle crashes
- Manufacturers will not be able to meet fuel economy standard of 54.5 miles a gallon - autonomous vehicles offer a viable alternative
- ACCESS Autonomous Connected Car Electric and Shared Service, is how vehicles work by accessing computer, cameras and GPS – a car computer distinguishes between moving & stationary objects, people and other vehicles
- Autonomous vehicles are designed to avoid accidents and, as a result, can be designed with a much lighter body - usually 1000 lbs. or less
- There are different levels of autonomy from 0 to 5, with “0” being complete human control and “5” operating with or without a vehicle occupant
- Technology may make some transit service obsolete due to solving first and last mile issue
- Autonomous vehicles make parking virtually problem-free, and both city and rural living convenient, as overall mobility will be less expensive
- Parking lots, garages and on street parking will be repurposed – vehicles can park themselves at remote locations after drop-off
- Within two to five years all new cars will have some sort of driver assist and some autopilot features; and in 15-20 years most new cars will be driverless (no pedals or steering wheels) making manual driving obsolete
- Mass production of autonomous technology will reduce costs and produce a light weight car body
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) will help the autonomous vehicle learn to navigate new & unfamiliar traffic situations, and transferring the newly learned information to the network
- GM will produce an autonomous (Cruise) for their ridesharing company in 2019

Drawbacks of the system include:

- Navigating in extreme or dangerous weather, or people who like to drive manually
- Crowd queuing after large events due while waiting for autonomous car pick-up, inhibiting mobility – buildings will be reconfigured facing each other with courtyards directing traffic to outer areas
- Autonomous vehicles are expected to eliminate most driving-related jobs in the US
- Pedestrians disrupting the system due to autonomous stopping for jaywalkers, requiring a shift in focus from managing vehicular traffic to pedestrian traffic
- Hacking as a possible threat

Item 5 – Marketing Outreach Update: Laura Van Eperen reported:

- Preparations for Bike to Work & Bike to College Day underway
- Scouting places to have a marketing presence, such as farmer’s markets
- Promoting bike safety

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

- Pedestrian enforcement active on Colesville Road near Silver Spring Metro at crosswalk
- Traffic enforcement at Georgia Avenue & Colesville and on Piney Branch
- Discussed the difficulties of bicycle enforcement – difficult to catch up with cyclist after traffic infractions

Adjourn:

Next meeting March 8, 2018

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet
February 8, 2018**

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Chris Kabatt	Wells + Associates	X	
Michael Meszaros / Co-Chair	Digital Industry, Inc.	X	
Vacant			
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Jim Bunch / Co-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 (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
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			
John Bowis	Chevy Chase Acura	X	
Harriet Quinn	4-Corners Resident	X	
Mel Tull	Lee Development	X	
Laura Van Eperen	Van Eperen	X	