

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
September 12, 2019**

**Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes/Chair Comments:** Chair Valerie Spencer opened the meeting. Members, guests introduced themselves and the meeting minutes were tabled.

**Item 3 – BRT Update:** Marcelo Cortez, MCDOT, updated the Committee on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project that will run 14 miles along Route 29 corridor from the Silver Spring Transit Center to Burtonsville. The 11 station route will have two travel patterns: one from Burtonsville to Silver Spring and the other from Briggs Chaney Rd. to Silver Spring running as a frequent all day service, seven days a week, same as Metrorail. Run times are in 7 ½ minute intervals during the peak and 15 minutes during off peak. Also discussed:

- Project design was completed in October 2018, and utility relocation, which started in December, is 95 percent complete
- Project completion is expected to be March 2020
- Station construction will be completed in sections – Fall to Winter 2019, Winter 2019 to 2020, continuing to Winter 2020

**Mr. Cortez** described the construction process:

- Sidewalk & lane closures during the off peak hours (9 am - 3 pm)
- Temporally bus relocations – signage following County guidelines
- Construction will be staged, five to seven stations under construction at a time
- Purple Line and BRT construction is coordinated by WMATA at the Silver Spring Transit Center
- Public outreach will be conducted via multiple strategies such as providing weekly updates through newsletters, dedicated email address, DOT website and twitter with an effort to minimize construction impacts

**Mr. Cortez** discussed the coordination with utilities regarding performing relocation work before they can begin construction:

- WSSC approves MCDOT's design before it is forwarded to Contractors
- Undocumented utilities found in older structures during Silver Spring construction – unmarked utilities are flagged and reported to utility companies
- Lane closures reported during utility relocation

Questions:

- Concerns about the staging process of infrastructure construction, as the incomplete construction creates hazards for pedestrians and cyclist-detailed signage put in place and construction site will be monitored to provide better access during construction
- Concerns over cost effectiveness of the BRT project as there are three express buses already in place
- Discussion of Purple Line construction and its effects on BRT- WMATA determines the construction schedule for the two projects to avoid conflicts
- Buses will be relocated on the upper level of the Transit Center during Purple Line construction
- The difficulty of relocating BRT station platforms due to their raised level construction

- Applying lessons learned from Route 29 BRT construction and applying to Route 355 and Georgia Avenue south and meeting with MNCPPC to discuss details
- The need for SHA to start construction to reinforce the shoulder pavement with concrete for the future BRT vehicles
- Discussion to establish a point of contact at Washington Gas for issues regarding gas smell- **Crystal Ruiz**, SS Regional Services Center, will assist

**Item 4 – Employer TMP Annual Reports:** The Committee recommended to MCDOT’s Department Director the approval of two employer Transportation Management Plans.

**Item 5 – MCDOT Director Letter:** **Ms. Spencer** reported that a response was received from MCDOT regarding the Bicycle Master Plan and that it shed light on the work that was being done behind the scenes to reduce obstructions and delays to pedestrians, cyclist and drivers during the construction process. She also thanked **Julie Statland** for putting the letter together. Committee discussion continued:

- The need for more education on construction disruptions and infrastructure changes to the business community- revising the Look Out brochures for this purpose in addition to other outreach efforts
- MOU requirement that vendors provide education regarding proper parking however MCDOT provides training classes
- Discussion regarding feedback on how to better target outreach efforts
- Making the distinction between riding e-bikes and non-motorized vehicles on sidewalks-looking at the success of other jurisdiction outreach efforts to keep motorized vehicles off sidewalks
- Meta study regarding what is in State Code provisions and what is existing, recommendation of allowing e-scooters on sidewalks with provisions high density pedestrian areas

**Item 6 - Employer Outreach Update:**

- Brochures have been helpful in their outreach efforts
- Walk & Ride Challenge is underway and going well
- Car Free Day Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> -actual day Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Annual Commuter Survey – looking to achieve 85% response goal for Silver Spring CBD

**Item 7 – Updates:**

- Discussion regarding increasing FareShare participants by increasing maximums and extending program – Council Member Andrew Friedson advocated to maintain program funding
- Spring of 2020 M-NCPPC will be conducting a study of Silver Spring Master Plan; and the Pedestrian Master plan is underway, which will influence the Silver Spring MP possibly increasing mode share goals
- State law classifying e-scooters as bicycles goes into effect October 1<sup>st</sup>
- The County’s climate change mandate of reducing greenhouse gases 80 percent from 2005 goals by the year 2027 and 100 percent by 2030 - workgroups established to achieve goals

**Ms. Brecher** introduced intern **Sean Pardo** who earned his degree in Transportation and Logistics from Liverpool University.

Also announced:

- Town Hall on Climate Change September 14<sup>th</sup> 11:30a-1p at Veteran’s Plaza

- **Sgt. Kerry Moore** reported on Hi visibility enforcement focusing on aggressive and distracted driving on Georgia Avenue
  - Pedestrian detail on Georgia & Colesville Streets
  - Future Fest at Veterans Plaza on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Burtonsville Parade Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>
- Peterson's Properties roll out of plans for the Ellsworth main corridor on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p
- Two Adult learn to ride classes on 9/14<sup>th</sup> & 10/5<sup>th</sup>
- Montgomery Hills – Forest Glen associations are having a fair to highlight the remodel of Georgia Avenue between Forest Glen and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets
- WABA discussion of encouraging MCDOT to build more protected bike lanes to keep cyclist off sidewalks and the design and activation of protected bike and pedestrian friendly intersection with dedicated bike signal at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wayne

**Adjourn/Next meeting: November 14, 2019**

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet**

**September 12, 2019**

<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
Julie Statland	Statland & Katz, Ltd.		X
Vacant			
<b>Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)</b>			
Harriet Quinn	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Vacant	North & West Sector Plan Area		
Chris Perry	CBD Resident		X
<b>Employers less than 50 employees (3)</b>			
Valerie Spencer	MayaTech	X	
Dar Maxwell	Panagora Group	X	
Vacant			
<b>Employers with 50 or more employees (3)</b>			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Vacant			
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	X	
Marcelo Cortez	MCDOT	X	
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Peter Gray	SS Resident	X	
Jeff Mosely	SS Resident	X	
Christine McGrew	M-NCPPC	X	
Mel Tull	Lee Development	X	
Sean Pardo	MCDOT	X	
Crystal Ruiz	SS Regional Center	X	