

**Silver Spring
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
May 21, 2020**

Item 1- Introductions/Minutes: Introductions were tabled to allow presentation time

Item 2 – Metro Recovery Plan: Gary Erenrich discussed Metro’s recovery plan and the movement to stabilization. Declining ridership since the Covid crisis have seen Ride On functioning at one third capacity and Metrorail down to 40,000 daily trips. However, bus ridership is doing better. Metro’s planning issues are due to the managed re-entry of three different jurisdictions; however, the process is going relatively smoothly according to customer satisfaction surveys. An April customer survey revealed that Metro travel is viewed as riskier than grocery shopping due to lack of social distancing. Other points of discussion:

- The issue with how to provide Metro service when some places are reopening and some not
- FY21 fare increases postponed as system operates at low capacity with 20 min headways and 9 pm closing on Metrorail, allowing for track & platform construction on the Silver & Orange lines – Ride On bus service until midnight, Metro closes at 11 pm
- Rear door boarding to minimize driver/customer contact and looking at technology placing SmarTrip targets at bus rear and other off boarding fare collections
- Working out ADA access issues w/ front & rear door opening
- Making sure workers are available to do construction work on transit projects
- The CARES act gave \$1 billion to the transit effort-\$750 million to Metro and \$30 million to Ride On; Heroes Act, passed last week, also provided funds for transit

Other Committee discussion:

- Not sure when area transit will get back to normal service, as telework will most likely be how employers will choose to operate; however, many front line service jobs do not have the option to telework
- Two telework events were hosted by Commuter Services for employers and the public
- A hybrid work force, alternating employees on differing work days to minimize social contact
- Talk of vaccine facing opposition regarding the safety and efficacy
- The advantage of face to face interactions vs telework and social distancing using plexiglass as some solutions are not environmentally friendly
- Biking on the increase since the pandemic

Item 3 – Vision Zero: Wade Holland presented the County’s Vision Zero plan. Vision Zero started in Sweden in the mid-nineties with the principal that traffic crashes are preventable making the country one of the lowest in traffic fatalities in the world. VZ has spread to the US with the DMV area adopting plans in 2018. The programs main principal of human error is inevitable has developed engineering construction design focused on safety and preventing loss of human life or serious injury.

Mr. Holland explained that he acts as the glue for all jurisdictions and agencies such as, Fire & Rescue and Sanitary agencies that clear the streets that are all involved in VZ. This is why Vision Zero operates out of the County Executive office. Other points of discussion were:

- Traffic deaths are unacceptable and ped safety has priority over other traffic related components – designing roads to anticipate error which will not prevent all crashes but lessen the severity (safety net in system)
- Speed is a major indicator of crashes –20 mph 40% chance of survival vs. 40 mph only 10% chance of survival
- Using the 3 E's to educate the public on safety and enforcement to curb unsafe behaviors with the alignment of State & local jurisdictions (SHA)

Mr. Holland discussed the Complete Streets road design that uses VZ practices to make roadways safe for all drivers, peds and cyclist. Some road treatment designs include:

- Narrowing & separate travel lanes providing buffers on medians and sidewalks separating pedestrians from traffic
- Lowering speeds and providing better lighting
- Adding crosswalks closer to bus stops and make them more visible also installing protected medians, ped scramble(allowing all peds to cross at the same time), protected bike lanes, HAWK & flashing beacons and signal timing giving peds a head start when crossing
- High injury network- roads with high incidence of serious crashes or fatalities
- Money added to the 6 year CIP budget for the Capital Crescent trail tunnel, 26 bikeway and 16 road/bridge projects, completing gaps in the sidewalk before the Purple Line opens in 2023
- Community meeting 7/15th at 7 pm for VZ projects- information on VZ website
- Corridor improvements on Bel Pre Rd., Crabbs Branch Way and Middlebrook Road
- 6 dangerous traffic behaviors some of which are distracted/impaired driving, no seat belt, speeding – using enforcement patrols to target behaviors and improve safety
- Safe speed camera program would result in 21,000 less deaths if properly used
- Get involved by submitting service request or general feedback form- also educational resources and tool kits available on website
- 10 year strategy of getting to 2030 goal of no serious injuries or fatalities due to traffic crashes- community survey and fact finding outreach to capture ideas with workgroups to further process data

Committee discussion continued with concerns over the lack of enforcement for pedestrians and cyclist. Mr. Holland commented that he sees that it is drivers who are found to be at fault more than pedestrians as they do not yield for pedestrians. VZ principals implement road treatments to remedy those types of hazards.

- Lack of enforcement of drivers and cyclist - at fault rate higher for drivers

Item 4 - Around the Room: **Chris Perry** discussed the night time construction noise at Spring St. & Colesville Rd. And the growing disturbance to his Community. **Ms. Brecher** suggested that he present the information in a way that highlights the mission of the TMD making it Transportation related. **Reemberto Rodriguez** and the Urban District and Citizens Advisory Committee are also a source of information.

Item 5- Marketing Outreach Update: Reported:

- Helping Employers get information during the crisis - employers more trusting about employees teleworking – grants available
- Conducted two Telework Webinars - funding available for employers

Item 6- Updates:

- Climate Planning meeting- Consultant firm AECOM reviewing 850 recommendations for Climate Action & Resilience Plan (CARP) also virtual office hours open to the public-opportunity for community input
- Dockless vehicle program has seen an uptick in use since the crisis lowered levels- free membership for Essential worker program, and bringing own sanitation is encouraged
- Spin coming on board as a new Vendor
- Bike Match program in the works
- FLASH has been delayed until Fall 2020

Adjourn

Next meeting July 16, 2020

Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet

May 21, 2020

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Chris Kabatt	Wells + Associates		X
Julie Statland	Statland & Katz, Ltd.	X	
Vacant			
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Harriet Quinn	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Vacant	North & West Sector Plan Area		
Chris Perry	CBD Resident	X	
Employers less than 50 employees (3)			
Valerie Spencer	MayaTech	X	
Dar Maxwell	Panagora Group	X	
Vacant			
Employers with 50 or more employees (3)			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Vacant			
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			
Jennifer Bolick	Van Eperen	X	
Maricela Cordova	MCDOT	X	
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT	X	
Wade Holland	MCDOT	X	
Christine McGrew	M-NCPPC	X	
Mel Tull	Lee Development	X	