

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report DECEMBER 2019 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

Please review archive of reports from links at

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/silverspring/boardscommittees/cab/index.html>

NOTE: These past reports include much more information on many of the other issues on which we are working.

[1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

Purple Line Updates

Thanks to DOT, we've begun posting the major disruptions due to the Purple Line construction on our eNewsletters by providing a [link](#).

We are also working closely with the many stakeholders involved at the Silver Spring Transit Center to ensure the public knows of all the temporary changes being made to bus routes and pedestrian flow due to the construction of the Purple Line and Transit Center Station. This construction includes a bridge over Colesville Road which will impact traffic flow as well.

Another hot spot is the work required for the Purple Line at the intersection of Wayne Avenue and Fenton St. This work will be coordinated with PEPCO's work. The Purple Line Transit Partners will present details on this at the next Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee.

Thanks to the Business Solutions Group we are engaging the many small businesses, merchants, and entrepreneurs along the Purple Line. In some instances we've been able to enhance "open for business" signage and directional signage; and are in the process of developing assistance for an on-line campaign to help these businesses survive during construction and thrive thereafter.

For updates and to sign up for notices, see links from www.PurpleLineMD.com

Other public R.O.W. disruptions

Disruptions by PEPCO, WSSC, WAG, and SHA continue throughout the Region:

- PEPCO is working on Fenton Street in downtown and on Georgia Avenue through Linden. This work is part of the major upgrade to the line that runs through Takoma Park and into D.C. The work on Fenton Street is more intense than originally expected, leading to additional disruptions. The work on Georgia Ave will require night-work in order to be completed in a timely manner
- WSSC is continuing work on line replacement along Colesville, south of the Beltway, including work in the downtown area.
- Washington Gas is doing line replacements in various neighborhoods, including the Flower Branch apartments in Long Branch.

Silver Spring Safety, Security, and Placemaking Efforts

We have scheduled the next meetings of the three Teams working on this effort: Environment (noise and quality of life); Safety and Policing; and People In Need.) We

expect to do the second and last series of meetings shortly after the New Years. This strategic effort is not waiting to implement some immediate improvements. For example, new signage have gone up at Veterans Plaza providing guidelines for busking on the sidewalk and indicating that the Plaza is non-smoking and is not the place to sleep overnight. We have also extended for a few more weeks the deployment of police which was to expire recently.

Background: Downtown Silver Spring is a vibrant, lively place. However, with success come related complex issues that merit attention. We are coordinating a multi-agency, inter-disciplinary effort to address the various issues regarding safety, security, and placemaking in Silver Spring's downtown. While we are addressing many of the issues already, we want to better coordinate the efforts and 'turn the curve' on key indicators. Some of these issues include homelessness, noise, busking, pan-handling, late-late night activities, and general and perceived safety. We will be approaching this effort by setting up three teams to focus on distinct – but interrelated - components (i.e.: Environment (noise and quality of life); Safety and Policing; and People In Need.)

Montgomery Hills

The emerging neighborhood and business leadership in Montgomery Hills has proven to be very effective in bringing the community together to pursue common goals. Most recently they were instrumental in the planning process with MNPPC and the State Highway Administration. They are also continuing to host "First Fridays" gatherings at local restaurants. They are also committed to reviving and updating the Montgomery Hills web-site which we developed a few years ago.

Long Branch

The Long Branch Business League remains very active in the area with issues dealing beyond the Purple Line. The recent festival demonstrated the value of such events and planning has already begun for the next one. Also in Long Branch, the TESS Center is hosting a major gathering with area social service providers (including non-profits and public agencies) to focus on the Census and how to 'get out the count'.

Coffield Center

The Coffield Center is due for a Capital Improvement "re-refresh". This refresh will include the inclusion of the area's African American history. The community has begun conversations with the Recreation Department to ensure this is done in a way that affirms the strong African American heritage in Lyttonsville.

[2] ADVISORY GROUPS

The [Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board](#) will next meet Monday, December 9th. On the Agenda: Fire Department's tips for the Holidays; and, a conversation regarding schools (i.e.: achievement gap, boundaries, connection with community, and more.) Last month the SSCAB full board held a very successful Census workshop. The Committees also met to hold a community conversation on Vision Zero.

The [Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee](#) will next meet Tuesday, December 17th – a special date as they regularly meet on the third Thursday of the month - at 3:30 p.m. in the Urban District Operations Conference Room, on the 3rd floor of the Silver Spring Fire Station #1. (This is their regular meeting time and location.) Key items on the Agenda include a conversation with Andrew Kleine, Chief Administrative Office for Montgomery County; and a presentation on the Purple Line work scheduled for the intersection of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street.

The [Silver Spring Transportation Management District](#) held a joint meeting with the other TMDs in a general session with the County Executive Wednesday, November 20th. Their next meeting is in February.

[3] OTHER ISSUES WE ARE FOLLOWING &/OR INVOLVED WITH

- Beltway widening
- Community (and Holiday) celebrations in the Civic Building, Veterans Plaza, Takoma Park and throughout the Region
- Adventist Hospital move to White Oaks and the physical plant left in Takoma Park
- The new Science Building in Montgomery College TP/SS Campus
- Pedestrian safety and speeding through neighborhoods
- New developments under construction and being proposed throughout the Regional Area, including various housing developments – and the upcoming process for the General Plan.
- The Silver Spring Urban District Streetscape Standards.
- New major investments downtown (change of ownership at Ellsworth Place; Refresh of Peterson Company/Foulger Pratt 'downtown' shopping center)
- SHA plans for Montgomery Hills
- Bus Rapid Transit System implementation
- Bike paths in and around downtown
- Scooters pilot project
- Night-time economy impact on quality of life (noise and late night / early morning activities)
- Oakview Neighborhood Action Team
- Progress Place and Environs Neighborhood Action Team
- Quebec Terrace issues re lighting and more – a possible Neighborhood Action Team