

# SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report    JANUARY 2020    *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

Work on all 9 Purple Line Stations in the Silver Spring Regional Area – and the streets where the tracks will be laid – is becoming increasingly evident. Communications with the community is being done by multiple means. Everyone is encouraged to visit [www.PurpleLineMD.com](http://www.PurpleLineMD.com) for latest updates – and sign up to receive notices. (\*The nine stations in the Silver Spring Regional Area are: Lyttonsville, 16<sup>th</sup> St. / Woodside, Transit Center, Library, Dale Ave., Manchester, Long Branch, Piney Branch at University, and Langley Park. The system has a total of 22 stations.)

The work at the Silver Spring Transit Station is requiring major construction across Colesville. This is necessitating the relocation of many bus stops away from the station unto nearby streets, as well as temporary closure of Colesville. The Silver Spring Urban District Ambassador Team are working closely with Montgomery County's DOT and WMATA to inform transit users of the location of their bus stops. Information is also readily available on-line. On Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a special walk with the visually impaired community to better explain the changes. All work should be done by mid-year.

### Other public R.O.W. disruptions

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

- PEPCO's work on Fenton is now focused on a couple of spots: At Wayne Ave., and E/W Hwy. On Georgia Avenue, work is being done from Spring to 16<sup>th</sup> Street, moving north. This work is expected to continue through the first half of 2020.
- WSSC is nearly complete with their work on Colesville. However, construction of the Bus Rapid Transit Stations and some road work is now being done on Colesville. Most of this work will be completed by mid-year.
- Washington Gas continues doing line replacements in various neighborhoods, including the Flower Branch apartments in Long Branch.

### Silver Spring Safety, Security, and Placemaking Efforts

All three Teams working on this effort met in December: Environment (noise and quality of life); Safety and Policing; and People In Need. We expect to do the second and last series of meetings soon. Recent incidents in downtown have given urgency to this effort; and we are not waiting for the process to be completed to act. Police presence has been increased; Progress Place security is enhanced; and a Health and Human Services staff is now stationed downtown to respond quicker to incidents of immediate needs.

## [2] ADVISORY GROUPS

The [Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board](#) will next meet Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m., at the Silver Spring Civic Building. On the Agenda: A conversation with Councilmember Riemer. The Committees will meet Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. On the tentative\* agenda: Placemaking. (\*Subject to change.)

The [Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee](#) will next Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. at the Urban District Operations Conference Room, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Silver Spring Fire Station #1. On the Agenda: Discussion on the budget in preparation to submit a Letter of Advice to the County Executive and a conversation with Brad Stewart, Provost of the Takoma Park / Silver Spring Campus of Montgomery College.

The [Silver Spring Transportation Management District](#) met Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. at the offices of Discovery Communications at Metro Center. On the Agenda: Purple Line Update; and WMATA systems changes update.

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

- Beltway widening
- 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
- The upcoming process for the General Plan – and the Silver Spring Master Pla
- The Silver Spring Urban District Streetscape Standards
- SHA plans for Montgomery Hills
- Bus Rapid Transit System implementation
- Bike paths in and around downtown
- 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

## [4] OF NOTE

In a sign of the strength of Silver Spring's downtown there are at least 5 examples of established corporations and developers that are choosing to continue their commitment to the area: (1) The Lee Development Group is developing Elizabeth Square, a multi-use project that incorporates a County aquatic/rec center; (2) Foulger Pratt is refreshing its investment on Ellsworth to accompany the purchase of the Discovery Building; (3) Studio Plaza is moving forward with its Phase Two residential development in Fenton Village; (4) Washington Property is also moving forward with its third apartment tower in the Ripley District; and, (5) the Tower Company is has completed phase one and moving forward with its redevelopment of the Blairs shopping center.

There are also similar indications from entrepreneurs, as three restaurateurs have chosen to open second locations downtown: (1) Urban Butcher's owner opened El Sapo; (2) Zed's Coffee Shop owner has opened Silver Strings, a restaurant/music spot two doors down from The Fillmore; and, (3) the owner of Kaldi's coffee shop is renovating the old Pacci's to serve as a new restaurant.