

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report JANUARY 2016 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

[1] Community Issues

Status of Major Area County projects:

- *New Library Spaces:* We should know soon regarding the future use of the 2nd, 1st, and basement levels. An announcement is eminent.
- *Progress Place (homeless services center behind the Fire Station):* Construction is going at a brisk pace, with projected opening in 2017.
- *Sligo Police Station Redevelopment:* Rezoning was secured last month. The process has begun to secure permitting so site clearing and infrastructure work can begin later this year.
- *Old Library:* We will be meeting with the immediate and nearby neighbors early February to share an update on the status of the process to determine the reuse of the space to include a multi generational element, per the consistent community advice through the years.

Purple Line:

- After visiting with all major Advisory Groups to provide an update status of the project and the schedule of major milestones in the next few months, MTA will soon begin forming the Community Advisory Teams (CTA) for the Purple Line Light Rail.

Bus Rapid Transit (US29 South):

- This Community Advisory Group (CAG) – along with the others for other areas of the County – will continue meeting through the first half of the year. Much of this Group's major concerns have been expressed by participants from the Four Corners neighborhoods.

Evaluation Workshop for Non-Profits:

- We are working with the Volunteer Center to do a ½ day workshop in March on evaluation techniques for non- profits. While not exclusive to Silver Spring organizations, the workshop will bring together geographic based community serving non-profits to increase their capacity to evaluate their work and thus be more competitive for philanthropic and public resources.

Lyttonsville Master Plan:

- The final draft is out and the Public Hearing at the Planning Board is set for mid February.

[2] Advisory Groups & Related Activities

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board (Monday, January 11th)

In December the Board held its annual 'potluck dinner', an informal opportunity for members of the community, the Board, and elected officials to share holiday greetings. The January meeting will be devoted to prioritizing budget priorities to be presented at the Budget Forum.

Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee (TBA)

At its December meeting, the Committee toured the new Silver Spring Library and discussed their budget priorities in preparation for the budget forum in January. Their key emerging priority is the need for maintenance of the major art and public venues – i.e.: the AFI and Civic Building in particular. They will meet again in late winter / early Spring.

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee (Thursday, January 21st)

In December, the SSUDAC held an information session on Silver Spring's major transportation projects (the Purple Line Light Rail and the Rapid Transit Bus System); and, received an update on the status of the 16th Street Circle. In January, the Committee will host members from the Area's other Advisory Group (Citizens Advisory Board, Transportation Management Advisory Group, and the Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee) to identify common budget priorities.

Silver Spring Transportation Management Advisory Committee (Thursday, January 14th)

In December the TMD discussed its budget priorities in preparation for the County Executive Budget Forum. They will continue this conversation in the January meeting as well.