

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report May 2017 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

[1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

BRT & PL

The two Corridor Advisory Committees for the Bus Rapid Transit system along US Route 29 (Colesville Road) are now split into three CACs to better address area specific issues. There is now the US29North, the US29Central, and the US29South. The meetings of these CACs are augmented by opportunities for input and information sharing via the recently held open houses... For the Purple Line, the Community Advisory Teams will be called to action once a final court decision providing for the project to move forward is announced. CAT members have already been notified. (Five of the PL's eight CATs are in Montgomery County, most in the Silver Spring Regional Area.)... As efficient as these community engagement efforts are, we do continue seeking ways to broaden the outreach regarding these transformative transportation projects to traditionally underserved and/or under-represented communities (i.e.: segments of certain populations – renters, transit riders, immigrants, and new Americans.)

Parking on Easter Avenue

County residents are seeking to extend the hours on the meters as to better serve the residential nature of that side of the street. However, those meters are under the jurisdiction of DC government. We are working with area residents and DC government representatives to address the issue.

Homeless Congregating on Georgia Avenue, by Progress Place

Progress Place clients are congregating in large numbers at the edge of the property, on Georgia Avenue by the Fire Station. This is a dangerous, smaller sidewalk not intended to serve this purpose. We are working with homeless providers, the police, Health and Human Services, and the Urban District to resolve this situation in a safe and considerate manner.

Pedestrian Safety

We recently joined Prince George's County and the District government on the unveiling of the new StreetSmart campaign to improve pedestrian safety in the Takoma Langley area. Given the recent opening of the bus transit center there, the safety of pedestrians in the vicinity is of concern. Other pedestrian safety measures are also being taken in High Impact Areas, including Piney Branch and downtown Silver Spring.

Continuing Dialogue Regarding Impact of Federal Initiatives

In the month of May, there are at least three events scheduled to continue the conversation regarding immigrants, refugees, and new Americans in our community. On May 4th, Impact Silver Spring will be devoting their annual gathering to this topic. On May 9th, Kojo Nnamdi will be bringing his show – focusing on immigration – to the Silver Spring Library. And, on May 18th Forum Theatre will debut the play "Build the Wall" at the Silver Spring Black Box Theatre, with nightly conversations after the play.

[2] ADVISORY GROUPS

Citizens Advisory Board

In April, the Board met on Tuesday, April 11th (because of the religious holiday on Monday.) They were joined by Councilmember Nancy Floreen. Additionally, they had a conversation with the Facility Manager of the Civic Building and Veterans Plaza; the Operations Manager of the Urban District; and the 3rd Police Precinct (regarding the new app, NextDoor. Later in the month, the SSCAB Committees hosted the a presentation by the Planning Department on "What is Being Built in Silver Spring". The next SSCAB meeting, on Monday, May 8th, will be a conversation with Councilmember Berliner; and State District 20 Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins.

Urban District Advisory Committee

Last month (Thursday, April 20th) the SSUDAC went on a short walking tour of the southern part of downtown, including the Lot 3 redevelopment site; and discussed possibilities for Holiday Decorations. The next meeting (Thursday, May 18th) will feature a presentation regarding The Blairs redevelopment; and a discussion regarding the new State law that enables the creation of Business Improvement Districts.

Recently the leadership of the UDAC accompanied the Montgomery Planning Board on a field trip to the Walter Reed redevelopment site; Jessup Park; and, south Silver Spring. Afterwards they had the opportunity to debrief at the Urban District Operations offices.

Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee

The Committee will meet again Tuesday, May 16th. On the Agenda: Updates from all Committee members on their Spring/Summer schedule for their respective venues.

Transportation Management District

(The RSC Director is an ex-officio member of the SSTMD) The next meeting is Thursday, May 11th. On the Agenda: Jose Thommana, Parking Lot District Director, to provide an update on various issues regarding parking in downtown Silver Spring.

Takoma Langley Commercial Development Authority

(The RSC Director represents Montgomery County on the TLCDA.) May is the month for the TLCDA's Annual Meeting.

NOTE: *Past reports highlighting additional issues are available at:*
<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/silverspring/boardscommittees/cab/index.html>