

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report JULY 2019 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

Please review archive of reports from links at <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/silverspring/boardscommittees/cab/index.html>

Purple Line Internal and External Communication

Working internally under the leadership of the Department of Transportation we continue participating in a series of weekly and bi-weekly calls to ensure all pertinent agencies in the County and the State – and contractors to these agencies – know what each other is doing and an open line of communications is maintained to ensure collaboration.

Externally we are coordinating with these same agencies to communicate to the public a clear and succinct message about construction details and scheduling of major disruptions. For the Silver Spring Transit Center in particular, our Urban District Red Shirts are helping to hand out material and be on-site ambassadors to ensure the public knows how to navigate the pedestrian detours to and from the Metro and the bus bays – some of which have had to be relocated.

Purple Line Business and Housing Efforts

The University of Maryland Smart Growth Center Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC) – working with its many partners, including the County - will host a meeting of its Housing Group to update initiatives made possible by the recent Federal Grant they received. (Housing is one of four major areas of focus for the PLCC. The others are Business Continuity, Workforce, and Placemaking.)

The Latino Economic Development Corporation continues its work with the businesses impacted by the Purple Line in the Silver Spring Regional Area's commercial hubs. These include Takoma Langley, Long Branch, Bonifant Street, and Brookville Road. The LEDC has positioned their staff in the Civic Building to provide more direct access to the businesses.

Small Business Support

The County's Business Support Unit now has a staff (Daniel Koroma) stationed in the Civic Building to provide direct support to Regional Area businesses and entrepreneurs. This effort will provide a more hands-on approach to ensuring businesses have access to county services, including array of training by others and timely information as needed.

Neighborhood Mini-Grants

With the coming of the new Fiscal Year, each Regional Area has \$5,000 to distribute to qualifying neighborhood activities. The process for applying will be going out later this month via the Regional Area newsletter. Applications will be due by Labor Day. Final decisions will be made by October 1st. These small neighborhood grants have proven to be widely popular in the Silver Spring Regional Area. More than 10 mini-grants have been granted each of the last two years. We expect to do the same this year.

All are welcome in Silver Spring

The Federal Government's stated intent to do immigration raids has caused many in our community to become highly alarmed. Working with other County agencies (the Police, HHS, OCP, Libraries, Rec, CUPF and others) under the leadership of the County Executive and County Council, and collaborating with our vast network of immigrant serving non-profits and faith communities, we are affirming our message bluntly and clearly through all our means of communication: Montgomery County is a welcoming County and our Police does not do immigration work.

[2] PRIMARY ADVISORY GROUPS

No meetings in the summer Most Advisory Groups slow down for the summer and do strategic planning. There are no meetings in July or August.

Annual Bus Tour However, the SSCAB is sponsoring their annual bus tour of the Silver Spring Regional Area Saturday, July 13th in the morning. All other Advisory Groups are invited to participate.

Over 50 people want to be on the SSCAB The response to the request for candidates to serve on the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board was extremely good. In only two weeks of advertising over 50 people have submitted applications. We will be going over the list; select a few for the SSCAB Selection Committee to interview; then they will recommend their top candidates to the County Executive; and the County Executive will in turn recommend his selection to County Council. We expect the process to be completed in the Fall.

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

- Census – forming the Complete Count Committee
- Beltway widening
- Walking Silver Spring efforts with the Y and others
- Community celebrations in the Civic Building, Veterans Plaza, Takoma Park and throughout the Region
- Planning for Jazz Festival – set for August 24th
- Adventist Hospital move to White Oaks and the physical plant left in Takoma Park
- The new Science Building in Montgomery College TP/SS Campus
- Pepco's work on Fenton
- Major developments under construction downtown and their impact on pedestrian safety and traffic flow
- Pedestrian safety and speeding through neighborhoods
- New developments being proposed throughout the Regional Area, including various housing developments
- New major investments downtown (change of ownership at Ellsworth Place; Refresh of Peterson Company/Foulger Pratt 'downtown' shopping center)
- Implementation of new funding for enhanced security at Progress Place and surroundings
- 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)
- Public Safety Cell tower proposal in Four Corners
- Oakview Neighborhood Action Team
- Progress Place and Environs Neighborhood Action Team