

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report MAY 2018 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

[1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

Please see the next section - Advisory Groups – for additional community issues. Also: See previous Monthly Reports for information on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), homelessness, emergency communications pole in Four Corners, Oakview Neighborhood Action Team, development activities, support for community celebrations, and other issues.

Purple Line

With the Purple Line construction set to begin as early as summer, there are a series of pertinent issues that the Community Advisory Teams (CATs) are discussing. While it is impossible to list them all, these seem to be the most prominent:

Key intersections: Fenton Street at Wayne Avenue (which will be totally closed for at least a couple of weeks); Wayne Avenue at Dale Avenue (with the station on Wayne, at the International Middle School); Arliss Street (already closed, necessitating detours); Arliss Street at Piney Branch Road (with the station on Arliss); University Blvd and Piney Branch Road (with the station on University); and, New Hampshire Avenue and University Blvd (with the station on University as well.)

Four bridges and one tunnel: Lyttonsville Way and Spring Avenue Bridge (which will be closed for approximately six months each – but not both at the same time); and Talbot Bridge and the bridge on Wayne Avenue over Sligo Creek (being replaced); and, the tunnel connecting Wayne Avenue to Flower Avenue at Manchester (which will be the longest construction project.)

Small business commercial hubs: Business continuity, customer access, and delivery logistics are a common thread to the various commercial hubs along the route. These hubs include: Brookville, Bonifant Street, Long Branch, and Takoma Langley.

Other issues: Pedestrian access to Silver Spring Metro (as the green will become a staging area, with the existing pedestrian access needed to be relocated); Post office relocation (currently scheduled to be at the Silver Spring Library temporarily as they identify a permanent location, ideally in downtown); and, coordination with PEPCO as they replace equipment along Fenton Street during the coming months, and coordination with the various private developments under construction or scheduled to be under construction adjacent to or near the Purple Line.

The State's MTA, the PLTC building the Purple Line, Montgomery County DOT (and other departments for specific issues), other public agencies (WMATA), the major utilities (PEPCO and WSSC), and the Urban District are in constant communications to minimize the disruptions during the construction phase. The most efficient way to stay in touch with these and other Purple Line related issues is to subscribe to their newsletter from www.PurpleLineMD.com

[2] ADVISORY GROUPS

Citizens Advisory Board

(The SSRSC Director is the principal staff to the Board and its three committees, Neighborhoods, Commercial Economic Development, and Transportation / Energy / Environment.)

At their last meeting, the SSCAB had a conversation with some members of other Citizens Advisory Boards – the East County and Mid County CABs. Additionally, the SSCAB Committees met with Dr. Renee Johnson, Principal of Blair High School to continue the conversation regarding how neighbors can engage in local schools; and heard a presentation/update on the BRT.

At their next meeting, Monday, May 14th, the Board will hear from Senator Will Smith and a representative from Senator Rich Madaleno regarding resulting legislation from the last legislative session. Additionally, the Board is planning a 'bus tour' of Silver Spring (on Saturday, June 9th) and has invited other Advisory Groups to join.

Urban District Advisory Committee

(The SSRSC Director oversees the operations of the Urban District and directly supervises its Chief of Operations.) In April the Committee heard from Montgomery County's Director of Transportation, Al Roshdieh regarding the many issues in downtown Silver Spring where DOT is active. Some of these included: Dockless bikes; Challenges to vehicular traffic due to new bike lanes (particularly on Spring St); Interface of County DOT with the State's Purple Line project; Interface with PEPCO construction phase on Fenton; DOT's attention to pedestrian priority on Fenton after PEPCO: Possibility of barn dance on Ellsworth/Fenton, wider crosswalks on Fenton/Wayne, and hi-visibility marking in all crosswalks; Parking challenges in Fenton Village; Update on disposition of Garage 5 and 55, and status of Garage 4; Status of Bike Master Plan for Fenton Street, particularly regarding impact on on-street parking (and the Grove St option); Bike path on Wayne from Colesville to Fenton; Interface of BRT with existing bus system, the Metro, and new ideas for the BRT station near the AFI (across from The Fillmore); Interface of DOT with development construction activity; Update on Metropolitan Branch Trail (timing, construction, and elimination of parking on Selim Rd); and, Getting a distinct VanGo. (These issues will be routinely updated moving forward.)

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 17th. The main item on the agenda is to welcome and hear the new 3rd Police Precinct Commander, William Montgomery. The staff of the UD will also present an extended report on their activities.

Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee

(The SSRSC Director coordinates the work of the Committee.) The Arts & Entertainment District unveiled its new 'game cart' on Veterans Plaza recently. This cart offers free games for public enjoyment. The cart is staffed with interns and volunteers on an irregular basis. The intent is to provide some limited activation even when there is no formal or official programming taking place on Veterans Plaza.

Transportation Management District

(The SSRSC Director is a non-voting member on the Committee.) The Committee last met in March the Committee when they reviewed their final draft letter of advice regarding the FY19 Budget, heard an update on the Transit Management Plans (TMPs) submitted by the major employers in the TMD, and had a presentation on Vision Zero. The agenda for the Thursday, May 10th meeting will be an update on the bicycle plan for downtown Silver Spring.

Other Institutional Engagement

The RSC Director represents the County in a series of other initiatives, institutions, and government sector, some of the most active include:

- Takoma Langley Commercial Development Authority. *(The SSRSC Director is ex-officio on the Board representing Montgomery County; the TLCDA will have its annual meeting in May.)*
- Long Branch Partners. *(The SSRSC Director routinely attends this group, which includes most service providers in the area.)*
- Long Branch Business League. *(The SSRSC Director routinely works with the LBBL on the many issues in the area; most recently, we worked on homelessness and water run-off from a local park.)*
- Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. *(The SSRSC Director is ex-officio on the Board representing Montgomery County; the SSTCi recently welcomed new board members to help with their efforts.)*
- City of Takoma Park. *(The SSRSC is in close contact with the City of Takoma Park; most recently working with them and DOT as we expanded the service area for dockless bikes.)*

COMING UP SUNDAY, MAY 20th: Taste the World in Fenton Village. More info in eNewsletters.