

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
January 10, 2023**



Voting Members

Bob Banach	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Afua Ofori	Polinger Co./Large Employer
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village

Non-Voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Peter Fosselman	B-CC Services Center

TMD Staff

Jim Carlson	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services

Absent

Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
Ahkeia Payne	GEICO

Guests

Jennifer Coursen	Chevy Chase Land Company
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT
Larissa Klevan	M-NCPPC
Shelley Monique Mann	TMD Outreach
David Proctor	TMD Outreach
Tom Quinn	ANC-3
Andy Wexler	M-NCPPC
Jason Wynans	Chevy Chase Land Company



Items 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes/Comments: Members and guests introduced themselves and November’s minutes were reviewed.

Jeffrey Slavin announced that Chair **Barbra Condos** has termed out a member of the Committee and recommends **Shannon Rovak** be selected as Board Member and Chair.

Item 3 – Metro Update: **Gary Erenrich** reported on Metro news announcing that there is a public hearing scheduled for the proposed budget which, if approved will be instituted in July. To the approval to MCDOT and some Metro board members the Red Line turn-backs will not be reinstated and are tabled from the proposed budget. **Mr. Erenrich** discussed why Metro decided to turn back trains prematurely at Grosvenor Station and not allowing them to continue to Shady Grove Station to service to the more condensed part of the Red Line. Also reported:

- Improved Red Line service from 10 to 8 minutes runtimes

- The Silver Line opening a week before Thanksgiving was a very well attended event
- Potomac Yards station will be opening by mid-year
- Rail base fare will remain at \$2, but the max fare will increase to \$6.50 from \$6.00- penalties for longer trips; however, smaller trips will benefit
- Before the Silver Line, Maryland trips made up the majority maximum fare trips, so Maryland jurisdictions will be impacted the most by fare increases
- \$2 evening and weekend fares
- Reduced fares for low-income riders who receive SNAP or Food Stamps (in DC only) - issues with implementation
- Discussion regarding how to leverage low-income program with transit benefits
- Metro is introducing a new strategic plan “Your Metro the Way Forward”-seeking public input through June 15th
- Metro’s Better Bus Network plan mirrors Ride On’s Reimagined Plan
- Metro bus ridership is out pacing rail with FY24 budget projections of 70% of pre pandemic levels
- Q route ridership up 40% and bus overall up 70% total
- The last of the Covid relief funds are being spent
- Preventive maintenance performed using FY24 capital funding but are line items in the operating budget- repairs for engines and bus overhauls; however, funds not available in FY25
- Debate over jurisdictions increasing the spending cap to increase contributions to cover Metro’s \$5 to \$7-million-dollar budget gap – infrastructure bill is for capital projects only, not operational
- Metro has implemented an aggressive construction plan using all funding sources such as three bus revitalization projects at transit centers and escalator upgrades
- DC mayor is against starting low-income program due to lack of involvement from Maryland and Virginia
- Maryland pays Metro average fare for the Kids Ride Free program, which is now \$1.85 but has been as low as .85
- Metro to start in March an all-door boarding pilot on the F4 route to increase service time- Smartrip will be at the rear door for rear boarding. Also being considered for BRT 29 route

Item 4 – Marketing Outreach Update: David Proctor announced:

- Collecting response to the Commuter Survey from GEICO & WTOP- clarifying teleworking is working and responses are still required
- In person events for the survey went well as paper copies, computer tablets, and a QR code was provided to for employees to fill out the form
- Commuter Information Days (CID) conducted to promote transit use
- The Walk & Ride challenge went well
- Looking for nominations for the COG Employer Recognition Awards

Discussion continued regarding having a member of the Friendship Heights Alliance join the Advisory Board as the organization functions as a business improvement district (BID) for the Friendship Heights area.

Item 5 – Remembering Bob Joiner: The Committee discussed the passing of **Bob Joiner** and his many accomplishments as a journalist in the Friendship Heights area covering local events and also his consistent reporting and attendance to the FHTMD Advisory meetings. He was 85.

Item 6 – TMD Performance Report: **Jim Carlson** discussed the annual commuter report stating that the report will include FY23 survey results and a review of the NADMS goal of 39% which has been achieved in past years. **Tom Quinn** commented that biking is not referenced in the report but presents an opportunity in achieving mode share goals. Also discussed:

- The Bike Master Plan infrastructure construction is based on biker’s comfort level
- Lane reduction on Western Avenue for protected bike lane installation presents dangers for cyclist and vehicles
- **Pat Shepard** has retired, and **Matt Johnson** is filling in until her position is filled

Item 7 – Updates: Announced:

- The COG Climate Report notes a reduction of Greenhouse Gas level for 2020- report posted on website
- IRS has raised the Commuter Tax benefit to \$300 per month
- Pending DC demolition of the Mazza Gallery and the Lisner home on Western Ave NW
- Planning bike lane construction on Western
- Western bus garage relocation to the current Lord & Taylor site by 2030
- 5333 Wisconsin redevelopment of Maggiano’s for a 250-unit apartment complex

Bob Banach expressed concern regarding the depositing of scooters on Wisconsin Avenue blocking the public right of way. **Mr. Erenrich** suggested a future discussion on scooter readiness.

Adjourn: Next meeting March 14, 2023