

**Silver Spring
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
February 14, 2013**

Abbreviations:

ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act
CID = Commuter Information Day
GRH = Guaranteed Ride Home
MSHA = Maryland State Highway Administration
TMP = Traffic Mitigation Plan

Items 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Minute Review/Chair Comments: Members and guests introduced themselves. **Co-Chair Samantha Mazo** asked **James Carlson** to start the meeting with the traffic mitigation plan (TMP) annual reports.

VOTE: The Committee voted to approve the minutes from January’s meeting.

Item 4 –TMP Annual Reports: **Mr. Carlson** explained that the TMP annual reports are required of employers with 25 or more employees that have businesses inside the TMD. Filed annually, the reports require employers to detail how the company has fulfilled the eight mandatory strategies agreed to when the company submitted its TMP.

Required strategies:

- Designate a point of contact to act a liaison between Commuter Services (CSS) and employer
- Host Commuter Information Day (CID) outreach events during employee lunch hours
- Disseminate and post information about alternative transportation programs for employees
- Have a permanent display area for transit and alternative commute information
- Promote the regional Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program
- Promote accessibility by providing information on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Distribute the Annual Commuter Survey (ACS) to employees with a good faith effort to achieve a return rate of 80 percent
- Report on fulfillment of the above requirements each year in an annual report

The Committee raised questions regarding business compliance with some of the reports. **Mr. Carlson** said he would follow up the companies that submitted incomplete reports.

It was suggested that **Sandra Brecher** provide a more in depth discussion regarding requirements and penalties for developers/businesses and how the commuter survey data is used at a future meeting.

VOTE: The Committee voted to recommend approval of TMP annual reports with changes.

Item 5 – 16th Street Circle Project: **Anyesha Mookherjee**, Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA), reported that officials had reached agreements regarding changes to the Circle, but left their posts before work could begin. They are working to obtain new agreements to synchronize the traffic signals on both the Silver Spring and District portions of the Circle; the signals should be controlled by one jurisdiction. Currently, only the DC portions of the Circle have traffic signals. MSHA has proposed placing signals in three locations on the circle:

- MD 390 (16th Street) southbound
- MD 384 (Colesville Rd) westbound
- 16th Street northbound center of Circle (DC side)

Ms. Mookherjee said that MSHA has not done a project like this before and engineers are strategizing how to design the Circle for better traffic flow. Obtaining equipment is a major issue. There should be a design blueprint by March. A study was done analyzing removing the circle altogether but was shown to not work.

Sgt. Harmon commented that there are always jurisdictional issues regarding traffic control. The signalization will help to alleviate congestion and improve pedestrian safety. Other comments from the Committee were:

- Concern regarding the confusing pavement markings on the North Portal
- Traffic being unnecessarily routed into the Circle on Colesville Road – cannot turn left into Giant parking lot after East-West Highway
- Discussion regarding MOU agreements between Maryland and the District and why the long response time – the District Dept. of Transportation is federally funded which prevents autonomy and resources in completing projects
- Creating jurisdictional easement to allow Maryland Dept. of Transportation to build and control 16th Street light signals on the District side
- Explanation regarding why signalizing the Circle is seen as the most feasible option
- Concerns regarding traffic back-up due to new signals
- The difficult process in renegotiating inter-jurisdictional agreements made without Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)

Ms. Mookherjee reported that the design process of the 16th Street project will be completed in March 2013, and construction will take another 6-12 months to complete. Pedestrians and bicyclists will be accommodated in the design.

Mr. Wexler said he would provide information to **Sgt. Harmon** regarding the Georgia Avenue corridor between 16th Street and Forest Glen Road. **Mr. Wexler** is on the stakeholders' panel that conducts open meetings regarding the corridor.

Item 6 –Updates: **Sgt. Harmon** reported that he attended the most recent meeting of the Interim Operating Site working group. The opening to the Silver Spring Transit Center is tentatively set for September 2013. Inspection review and study is currently underway.

Other announcements:

- Two pedestrian fatalities to date – none at this time in 2012
 - Cherry Hill parking lot
 - February 7th Columbia Pike and Oak Leaf Drive – man fell into roadway

The Committee discussed further issues regarding the 16th Street Circle such as the overall shape which contributes to the poor sight lines and higher risk of accidents.

Mr. Carlson announced the following:

- Bike to Work Day will be May 17th from 6:30 am – 8 am at Discovery
- Senior Planning Specialist **Sam Oji** is no longer with Commuter Services and has transferred to another section inside the Department.

Item 7 – Budget Priorities: **Ms. Mazo** suggested adding a funding request for Commuter Services staff.

Other budget priority suggestions were:

- Adding language publicizing the Ripley Street connection to the transit center MARC platform
- Funding to capitalize and promote the Silver Spring Transit Center providing cleaning service, police coverage and signage

- Discussion regarding uniformity of parking meter rates – cheaper to park on street than in garages

Mr. Carlson reported that he would send the priorities to members for added input. The meeting with County Executive Leggett will be March 15. There will be no March meeting.

Adjourned

Next meeting date: April 11, 2013

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet
February 14, 2013**

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Arnetta Haines	Social and Scientific Systems		X
Michael Meszaros	Digital Industry, Inc.	X	
Samantha Mazo / Co-chair	Linowes and Blocher LLP	X	
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Jim Bunch	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Phil Olivetti	North & West Sector Plan Area	X	
Andrew Wexler / Co-chair	CBD Resident	X	
Employers less than 50 employees (3)			
Vacant			
Everton Latty	iDeal Decisions, Inc.	X	
Valerie Spencer	MayaTech	X	
Employers with 50 or more employees (3)			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Vacant			
Vacant			
Non-Voting Members (3)			
Sandra Brecher, DOT Transit Services	DOT Director or Designee		X
Vacant	M-NCPPC		
Reemberto Rodriguez	Silver Spring Regional Center	X	
Sergeant Thomas Harmon	Montgomery County Police	X	
Staff			
Nakengi Byrd	DOT, Commuter Services	X	
Jim Carlson	DOT, Commuter Services	X	
Guests			
Anyesha Mookherjee	SHA District 3	X	
Harriet Quinn	Neighborhood Resident	X	
Molly King	The Blairs	X	