

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
November 12, 2024**

Voting Members

Bob Banach	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Elaine Binder	Somerset House Management Assn.
Justin Burgett	Town of Somerset
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village

Non-Voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Peter Fosselman	B-CC Services Center
Ronnetta Zack-Williams	M-NCPPC Downcounty Planning

TMD Staff

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

Absent

Ahkecia Payne	GEICO
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Guests

Natalie Avery	Friendship Heights Alliance
Charles Crerand	CBRE
Samuel Damesa	MCDOT
Rachel Davis	Friendship Heights Alliance
Capt. Zenethia Eubanks	CERB
Julian Mansfield	Friendship Heights Village
Kevin Obike	MCDOT
Tom Quinn	ANC-3
Fernando Snellings	TMD Outreach
Corey Pitts	MCDOT
Jason Winans	Chevy Chase Land Co.
Jeffrey Slavin	Mayor – Town of Somerset

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes: Jim Carlson called meeting to order, and members and guest introduced themselves. Elaine Binder was welcomed as a new member representing Somerset House Management Association.

September's meeting minutes were accepted with changes.

Captain Zenethia Eubanks attended the meeting for the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB).

Item 3 – Friendship Heights Alliance Update: Ms. Davis explained that the Alliance was established as a marketing arm of Friendship Heights for business improvement and development. Dually funded by a business improvement district (BID) on the District side and be an Urban District on the Maryland portion of the bifurcated area that covers Fessenden Street up to Sachs. Activities of the Alliance highlights the enormous potential of connecting between the central business district (CBD) and the surrounding neighborhoods. Also reported:

- Calendar of events include Maker’s Market on Jenifer St. and music every 3rd Thursday
- The marketing events are designed to show that Friendship Heights as a creative and culturally interesting place to live and shop
- Two new pollinator gardens were installed - one in DC and the other on the Maryland side – Bethesda Chevy Chase & Jackson Reed high school programs
- The Alliance sponsors regular cleaning and maintenance service
- A relationship and regular meetings with the Metropolitan Police Department- neighborhood walkthrough
- Safer crossings at Western & Willard intersection – pending conversation with Wade Holland, Vision Zero coordinator
- The FH Alliance newsletter and www.FriendshipHeights.com inform on area events

Ms. Davis explained that the new housing and grocers are among the 24 new openings and relocations to the Friendship Heights area. The Alliance has collaborated with DOT marketing contractors on events such as the regional Bike To Work Day event & the Makers Market and regular attendance at the Alliances meetings.

Item 4 – Marketing Update:

- Commuter outreach ongoing at residential buildings with efforts doubling attendance – commuter benefit information provided
- The Cycle, Scoot & Snap campaign has been extended until December 31st

Item 5 – Updates:

- Continued outreach to employers with 25 or more employees to submit transportation demand management (TDM) plan annual reports
- Committee’s role described in recommending approval of the TDM plans/annual reports to the MCDOT Director
- The Walk & Ride campaign was a success, with three winning teams receiving gift cards – there were more than 300 participants
- Commuter Services won a Regional Commuter Award from COG for its marketing outreach
- Transit Align is coordinating bus schedules with Metrobus & rail
- Bike Match MoCo has 300 people waiting for bikes
- Ride On bus ridership is growing, approaching 70,000 a week
- Operation Green Light bus is in circulation as a tribute to veterans
- The Thanksgiving Parade is Saturday, November 16th-The Mobile Commuter Store will be participating
- Friendship Heights Sector plan will be presented at the Wisconsin Community Center

Item 6 – Around the Room:

Bob Banach suggested charging violators that improperly park scooters in a pedestrian right of way. **Ms. Brecher** responded that they are creating parking corrals that can be found on the phone app and to lock to bike racks, not on private property. A staff member is dedicated to track micromobility and they are revising the agreement with vendors to have them pick up scooters. Some areas are restricted from micromobility, so please send pictures to Commuter Services if vehicles are improperly parked. Also discussed:

- Cars backing up and causing dangerous conditions at the garage on 5530 Wisconsin avenue and issues with senior citizens crossing Wisconsin avenue – State Highway Administration (SHA) study was done but recommended no changes
- Pedestrian safety concerns on Western & Wisconsin, as the right arrow is not respected and crossing signal takes a long time to activate for pedestrians
- The free parking in Friendship Heights Village encourages parking from surrounding businesses - however, changing to a payment system would not benefit the Village since the \$500,000 revenue would not be shared with them
- Discussion regarding the high cost of riding Metro from the outer reaches of the system and the use of FareShare to reduce costs of transit to \$25 a month, providing up to \$315 of free benefits.

Adjourn