

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
January 10, 2017**

Voting Members

Barbara Condos (Vice Chair)	Town of Somerset
Charles Crerand	CBRE Asset Services/Wisconsin Place
Joe Dixon	GEICO
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
John Mertens	Friendship Heights Village
Manuel Ochoa	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights

Non-Voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Katie Mencarini	M-NCPPC

TMD Staff

Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
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Absent

Tiffany L. Anderson (Chair)	Chevy Chase Land Company
Jim Carlson	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
Kenneth Hartman	B-CC Services Center
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association
Charles Simpson	Chevy Chase Village

Guests

Gary Erenrich	MCDOT
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Julian Mansfield	Friendship Heights Village

Item 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Minutes/Chair Comments: Co-Chair **Barbara Condos** called meeting to order, members and guests introduced themselves. December's meeting minutes were tabled with corrections. **Ms. Condos** had no comments.

Item 4 – WMATA/Safe Track/Moving Forward: Special assistant to MCDOT Director **Gary Erenrich** reported that Metro's Board approved new late night service hours starting July 1 – closing @ 11:30 pm Monday through Thursday and 1:00 am Friday & Saturday. This temporary change will allow the system a chance to see if the extra hours are sufficient to conduct regular maintenance for a duration of two years. He explained that if the station shuts down at 12 am repair work does not start until 1:30 due to getting the trains back and shutting down the power. Also reported:

- It costs \$50,000/hour to run the rail system and there are capacity issues having buses compensate due to limited operating times in Montgomery County

- Metro's \$300 million operating budget gap – no public hearing scheduled yet – proposed fare increase from \$2.15 to \$2.25 and \$5.90 to \$6.00 as the maximum rail fare and \$1.75 - \$2.00 for buses
- Discussion regarding using MARC as a viable travel alternative to Metro – good travel times and comparable fare to rail
- Metro Select pass program as a way for commuters to save money with unlimited trips – issues with understanding the program is causing underutilization of the benefits
- Discussion regarding Metro parking fee increases, some station parking is underutilized (Wheaton) due to nearby mall parking availability
- The issues with lengthening headways, as they went from 2 ½ - 5 minutes after the Ft. Totten incident, causing the system to switch from automatic to manual, thus reducing trains from 24 to 20 trains per hour
- Widening headways from 12-15 minutes on Metro rail as a cost saving measure
- Discussion of Metro rail car turn-backs and the County's debate to block reinstatement
- Metro bus service cuts based on regional vs non-regional operational need. Cuts for mostly non-regional routes do not have a significant impact on the deficit
- Discussion of the effort to make the burden of the cuts more equitable between jurisdictions
- The Committee can make recommendations to the State via MCDOT's Director office

The Committee also discussed:

- The issues regarding County takeover of some Metro routes -providing extra buses and labor as major obstacles
- The States reluctance of giving the County taxing authority to institute a gas tax to provide additional transportation funding
- Having the State give the County instead of Metro the operating funds for the T2 route

Item 5 – Draft FY18 TMD Priorities: The Committee discussed changes to the 2016 County Executive Budget Priorities draft:

- **John Mertens** suggested the County look at congestion pricing
- Pedestrian and bicycle lighting improvements to benefit the night time economy
- Allowing HAWK signals (pedestrian operated crossing beacons) on County roads
- Asking for a dedicated funding source for Metro. Davis Bill expires in 2018, in which the Federal Government contributes \$150 million for 10 years and the three jurisdictions match with an additional \$50 million each
- Deletion of item number eight.

Item 6 – Marketing Outreach Update: **Emily Davis** of Sharp & Co. announced nominations of employers for the Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards – suggestions welcome.

Item 7 – TMD/Police/DOT Updates: **Ms. Brecher** commented on the need to lobby to retain transit and vanpool subsidies under the new administration.

Item 8 – Around the Room: **Mr. Ochoa** reported excessive ticketing of expired parking permits due to the new online system

Adjourn: Next meeting February 14, 2017