

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
September 12, 2017**

Voting Members

Tiffany L. Anderson (Chair)	Chevy Chase Land Company
Charles Crerand	CBRE Asset Services/Wisconsin Place
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association
John Mertens	Friendship Heights Village
Manuel Ochoa	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Charles Simpson	Chevy Chase Village

Non-Voting Members

Katie Mencarini	M-NCPPC
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TMD Staff

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

Absent

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Barbara Condos (Vice Chair)	Town of Somerset
Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
Joe Dixon	GEICO
Kenneth Hartman	B-CC Services Center

Guests

Emily Davis	Sharp & Co.
Will Kenlaw	MCDOT
Julian Mansfield	Friendship Heights Village
Mayor Jeffrey Slavin	Town of Somerset
Stephanie Webber	Sharp & Co.

Item 1,2 & 3 – Introductions/Minutes/Chair Comments: Members and guests introduced themselves.

Vote: July meeting minutes approved.

Item 4 – Ride On extRa Service: Will Kenlaw, MCDOT Division of Transit Services, discussed Ride On’s new limited stop service, Ride On extRa, which will serve riders between Lakeforest Mall Transit Center and Medical Center Metro Station.

With 850 employees, 650 of which are bus operators, the Ride On system is one of the top 10 suburban neighborhood transit systems. Metrobus operates on the main arteries. Senior and low income service is also available.

The new service, starting October 2nd, will reduce some congestion on MD 355 and increase capacity on Routes 46 & 55. In the past, five extra buses were added to the MD 355 corridor, but quickly hit

capacity; thus, the need for the limited stop extRa service. The service is to be a precursor to the BRT system that will start on Rt. 29 in 2020. Other features of the system include:

- Service will be stopping at 12 of the 80 stops along the corridor
- Traffic Signal Priority at 30 signals keeps light green for extended time to allow buses through intersections
- Regular bus service runs 1½ hours on MD 355; extRa service averages 52-58 minutes
- Runs every 10 minutes during peak period M-F – no traditional schedules printed
- 17 buses dedicated to extRa service -14 on route plus three spares
- USB and Wi-Fi equipped with extra padding on seats
- Service connects to Ride On stops and six Metro stations
- Twelve bus stops with special signage and branding with artwork and monitors displaying runtimes -new shelters built in Gaithersburg and Rockville municipalities
- Ninety percent of the volume will be in the direction of Lake Forest Transit Center in the morning peak, and to Medical Center during the evening peak
- Service will go into Shady Grove station, Montgomery College, Rockville and Medical Center; however, service will not go into Twinbrook & Grosvenor stations
- No loading of SmarTrip cards on extRa buses, which slows down service
- Free rides during the month of October
- Metro is discontinuing routes J7 & J9; extRa service will provide an alternative not a replacement
- Included in the bus safety features are sliding doors and rear safety lights

Mr. Kenlaw reported his team conducted a soft launch in April and hard launch in July with a press event at the County Fair that included County Executive **Ike Leggett** and County Council member **George Leventhal**. Paid social media advertisements, radio, digital ads and outreach teams were also part of the launch.

Item 5 – Marketing Outreach Update: **Emily Davis**, Sharp & Co., introduced colleague **Stephanie Webber** who is working with her on the Friendship Heights TMD outreach. She will be available at outreach events and to answer all TMD-related questions.

Item 6 – Updates: **Jim Carlson** announced:

- ADA ramp re-construction underway. State Highway Administration (SHA) will listen to comments from the community & Committee regarding the project. The Committee viewed construction after the meeting.
- PARK(ing) Day- September 15th
- Car Free Day- September 22nd
- Ride On extRa service - Free fares during October
- 72nd bikeshare station installed
- Purple Line construction revived – protest regarding bike trail closure and down trees
- Ride On “Seniors Ride Free” hours expanded to Saturdays 8:30am-4pm (9:30-3 M-F)
- Mobile TRiPS store coming soon- Friendship Heights store will be closing

The Committee agreed go to have future meetings be on a bi-monthly starting January, 2018.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 10, 2017 (meeting canceled)

