

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
November 8, 2022**

Voting Members

Barbara Condos (Chair)	Town of Somerset
Bob Banach	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Afua Ofori	Polinger Co./Large Employer
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
John Mertens (Vice Chair)	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
Marin Hill	M-NCPPC
Ahkeia Payne	GEICO

Guests

Gary Erenrich	MCDOT
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Shelley Monique Mann	TMD Outreach
David Proctor	TMD Outreach
Tom Quinn	ANC-3
Charlie Scott	WMATA
Andy Wexler	M-NCPPC

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/ Minute Review: **Barbara Condos** opened the meeting; members and guest introduced themselves. Meeting minutes from September’s joint meeting were reviewed.

Item 3 – Metro Operating and Capital Budget: **Charlie Scott**, WMATA Government Relations, reported that Metro’s new General Manager **Randy Clark** will present new fare concepts to the WMATA Board as a component of his proposed budget. The Metro rail system has the most complex fare tables; the options are to improve the level of rail ridership to fund operations. The GM’s proposed budget will go out for public review in February of next year following adoption and implementation on July 1st. **Mr. Scott** also explained:

- The complex fare system is based on travel distance, origin & destination and the rates per mile based on the distance traveled - peak and off peak also included.
- Some cost saving measures implemented in FY22 include free rail-to-bus transfers, flat weekend fares, and a lower priced 7-day rail pass to \$12 from \$15, among others.

- The goal of all cost saving measures is to provide convenient, equitable and financial stability as customers move through the system.
- Some proposed changes include changing fare cost to match ridership changes from travel to work and necessity commuting to leisure trips; others are zone fare charges and fares based on low income.
- Making fares more competitive by lowering them and providing more accessibility to ADA commuters.
- No charge for fares is also an option but would cause a \$500 million revenue impact to the jurisdictions that fund the system.
- Some issues with zone fare system is how to divide the system, and what to charge to minimize stark increases.
- A fare map could be created specifically for every station showing fares peak and off-peak rates
- WMATA is working with DC on a low-income fare rate pilot to pull bus ridership to rail- how to confirm eligibility & pay for the program among concerns of this approach.
- The Smarttrip system does not incorporate fare capping, which is a system that caps the amount a rider is charged based on commuter usage of the system.
- The core of the system has more ridership the suburban outreaches.
- Metro is a two-track system unlike New York, which has a third track that can run express service; however, we have “pocket” track sections throughout the system - pockets can store trains to use where there is high ridership.
- Reinstating the turnbacks on the Red line is being considered due to the high ridership between Silver Spring & Grosvenor stations, increasing runtimes every eight minutes during peak and 10 for off peak.

Discussion:

- MCDOT not happy about potential Red Line turnbacks at Grosvenor, since the County had been fighting for years to remove them.
- The debate over moving the Friendship Heights garage on to the Lord & Taylor property as it is in a residential zone and moving it to 44th street instead- all capital projects undergo a public vetting process.
- Buses are being designed with zero emissions.
- The garage relocation will be on the ANC’s agenda in the coming years with the anticipated construction date of 2028.

Item 4 – Marketing Outreach Update: David Proctor reported:

- The Outreach Team conducting outreach for the commuter survey - discussion regarding outreach to residential communities.
- Adult Learn to Ride bike class scheduled for the GEICO lot.
- Commuter Information Days scheduled for FH area businesses.
- Discussion regarding the benefit of the QR code for the survey and convenience of using a smart phone.
- Finding a contact for GEICO - **Bob Banach** will assist in communicating with GEICO’s new rep

Item 5 – Around the Room: Ms. Condos reported that the sidewalk along River Road is narrow and has a low comfort level for pedestrians due to lack of a barrier with speeding drivers. Council voted to designate River Road as a transit corridor without obtaining public input or discussion with the Citizens

Advisory Board. A meeting with State Highway is being arranged to discuss this issue with a request for some Committee Members to try to attend, although the meeting will most likely be during working hours for most.

Item 6 – Adjourn: Next Meeting January 10, 2023