

**Greater Shady Grove
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
January 5, 2022**

Voting

John Brandt / Universities at Shady Grove
Amy Frieder / Neighborhood Representative
Benjamin Garcia / Neighborhood Representative
Steve Kelley / NIH – National Cancer Institute

Ex Officio

Sandra Brecher / Representing MC Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) Director
Greg Wims / Upcounty Regional Services Center
Capt. David McBain / Montgomery County Police

Staff

Nakengi Byrd / Montgomery County Commuter Services
Jim Carlson / Montgomery County Commuter Service

Absent

McLean Quinn / EYA
Capt. David McBain / MC Police
Paul Yanoshik / RE/MAX Realty Services

Guests

Jake Adler / Fovndry
Jennifer Bolick / Fovndry
Kirk Eby / City of Gaithersburg
Gary Erenrich / MCDOT
Gehmelle Johnson / NIH – National Cancer Institute

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Chair Comments/ Minutes: Members and guests introduced themselves.
November 2021 minutes approved.

Item 3 – Metro Update: **Gary Erenrich** briefed the Committee on Metro canopy replacement at Rockville Station; construction is essentially complete, with some finishing work still to be done. New shelters will be arriving in Spring - temporary shelters will be in place till they arrive. Also reported:

- A National Awareness & Inspection Safety Commission was created due to Metro’s 7000 series cars wheel axel misalignment issue – the Commission regulated by three agencies

- The Commission has direct authority over Metro and requested they submit a correction plan for fixing the 7000 series rail cars to put back in service – 7000 series cars are replaced by 2000 & 3000 series
- The reduction in Metro staff and the pandemic has operations on a modified Saturday Plus schedule that will add more buses on major routes
- Metro’s strong vaccine requirements include weekly testing for non-vaccinated employees termination for non-compliant employees may lead to further service reduction
- Restarting regular testing for Ride On - testing requirement the same for employees of the government extended to transit operators
- Metro & Ride On personnel are the only workers who are employees vs. contractors
- Ride On free fare holiday extended until the end of the fiscal year (June 30)
- Plexiglass use on Ride On buses continues for safety and separation
- FY23 Metro virtual Public Hearing with accompanying questionnaire will be held the first week in February
- Opportunity to comment on fare discounts, evening & weekend schedule, and flat rates for fares
- Construction of Shady Grove Metro stairs will be completed when the station reopens for service

Metro has two new board members; **Christopher Zappi**, a former Amtrack Senior staff person and **James Ports, Jr.** in MDOT:

- **Mr. Zappi** attends Metro board meetings in **Mr. Ports** absence, although he cannot attend private Executive Board Meetings

Mr. Erenrich presented the Ride On Reimagined study, which has received funding to conduct a comprehensive review of the bus network system by examining current routes:

- The Study kick off will be in February
- The Study will look at how Ride On can better serve neighborhoods by observing changing travel patterns & land use
- Ride On’s other services include Flash and Flex service
- A draft scope of work has been available for comment for one month - what should be included in the plan, performance measures and origin destination and market analysis
- Title VI analysis for service equity - equity in fleet distribution and public engagement
- Providing adequate bus facilities to accommodate the future growing fleet - articulated bus facilities
- Providing Realtime information & accuracy
- Providing incentives to increase ridership and how to develop land use
- Red paint for bus lane at the Germantown Transit Station
- Transitioning to Zero emissions buses- looking to purchase as part of Climate Strategy
- Expanding on-demand service
- Researching automated vehicles with a 40-ft bus at Robotic Research facility in Clarksburg
- Metro conducting a similar study as Ride On Reimagined - Montgomery County to lead planning for the study that affects Montgomery County area - **Mr. Erenrich** will confirm
- Discussion of autonomous vehicles and what will happen during snowstorm operations if navigation features on buses are covered in snow - military vehicles learn routes so don’t need to “see” with navigation sensors

Item 4 – Employer TDM Plans: **Jim Carlson** submitted eight employer TDM plans to the Committee for review and recommendation, stating that the companies meet the eight mandatory measures; and many with the exception of one go beyond the minimum offering many benefits such as telework, flexible schedules and carpool matching.

The Committee recommended that MCDOT approve the plans.

Item 5 – Employer Outreach Update: **Jennifer Bolick** reported:

- Working with employers to complete their TDM plans
- Asking employers what their plans are for going back into the workplace- although many are teleworking, most are commuting by car if coming into the office
- Providing updates on transportation news & information such as road repairs, transit benefits like carpool & Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH), virtual transportation meetings and member recruitment
- Gathering nominations for the Council of Governments Employer Recognition awards ceremony in June

Item 6 – Updates:

- **Greg Wimms** reported that the upper Montgomery County Advisory Committee is pleased with the Red Paint for the bus lane
- **Mr. Carlson** reported that due to the NextGen legislation, the next survey will have an added residential component also adding “Vehicle Miles Traveled” and will be available online the end of February [New date: Oct-Nov]. He worries that survey fatigue may be an issue as residents receive others in the mail such as MC biannual residential survey.

Sande Brecher reported:

- New TMD in White Oak area
- The many comments received for NextGen Executive Regulation draft will be included in the update
- The Climate Action Plan has a first quarter update posted on the County’s website - Ride On reimagined study key to providing climate plan strategies
- Micromobility expansion with e-scooters in Germantown – installing parking corrals for scooters
- Training program for Climate Plan Officers and filling job positions such as Zero Emissions Coordinator for the electric vehicle purchasing co-op

Benny Garcia reported that he has been on assignment in Africa with the State Department and that the Federal agency has asked employees to stay home unless they have face to face meetings due to the Omicron variant

- New residential, retail & office space becoming available within a 5–7-minute walk to the Shady Grove Metro Station
- **Mr. Carlson** discussed a potential joint TMD meeting for March-April.

Adjourn