

**Greater Shady Grove  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
November 1, 2023**

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**Voting**

**Steve Kelley** / NIH – National Cancer Institute  
**Benjamin Garcia** / Westside at Shady Grove Metro  
**Paul Yanoshik** / RE/MAX Realty Services

**Ex Officio**

**Jake Adler** / Upcounty Regional Services Center  
**Sandra Brecher** / Representing MC Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) Director  
**Greg Wims** / Upcounty Regional Services Center  
**Kirk Eby** / City of Gaithersburg  
**Michael Wahl** / Universities at Shady Grove

**Staff**

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

**Guests**

**Jennifer Bolick** / Van Eperen  
**Gary Erenrich** / MCDOT  
**Gehmelle Johnson** / NIH-National Cancer Institute  
**Laura Van Eperen** / Fovndry  
**Nkosi Yearwood** / M-NCPPC

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**Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/ Minute Review:** **Jim Carlson** opened the meeting and members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting minutes from September’s joint meeting were submitted for review and changes.

**Item 3 – Shady Grove Minor Master Plan Amendment- Update:** **Nkosi Yearwood** presented to the Committee the updated amendment to the Shady Grove Minor Master Plan. He explained that the plan was first created in 2006 in the Greater Shady Grove areas that include the Shady Grove Metro Station, two residential communities, and retail. The County Council approved the plan in 2021 for a two-stage development phase that include staging triggers with updates to the surrounding transit and town home construction on the westside area of the plan. Development on the east side of the property is limited and includes Jeremiah Park and build out of the ICC complex. **Mr. Yearwood** also reported:

- Westside of development mostly completed – EYA, CVS at Gramecy
- Pending annexation since 2006 of the westside of Metro
- The developmental goals of increasing mixed use and maintaining industrial use
- A review of the 6 approvals and the Shady Grove station development
- The westside parking area development- 4 properties

- Potential development at Carmax on Frederick Road and Sommerville properties- discussions with property owners
- Relocation of surface lot area on Metro's northside
- Updating the Master Plan amendment with BRT & a bike network access to Shady Grove metro
- Implementing recommendations for Frederick & Shady Grove Road- addressing speeding concerns with traffic engineering & street calming measures
- The amendment significantly addresses the High Incident Network to reduce traffic fatalities along Rt.355 & Crabbs Branch using roadway treatments.

**Mr. Yearwood** discussed the 2006 master plan recommendation of interchanges at 355 & Crabbs Branch and on Gude Drive. The updated 2021 plan does not recommend an interchange at 355 but does approve one on Gude as a last resort, since cost and feasibility would be difficult to achieve. The City of Rockville has recommended the interchange in their master plan. Further discussion:

- The proposed non-auto driver mode share goals and the usage of micromobility to achieve goals.
- The inclusion of community facilities in the amendment such as a library on the westside of the site and 2 urban parks
- Noise mitigation by keeping the forest area between CarMax and Crabbs Branch Way
- Outreach is continuing with a meeting in December and updates to County Service Park site.

A Q & A discussion followed:

- The construction and functionality of the CCC has been replaced by the Great Seneca Transit network.
- Discussion regarding the City of Rockville carrying forward developer agreements if the forested area between Car Max & Crabbs Branch is annexed.
- Discussion regarding the need to mitigate parking when new the development opens such as the CVS on Gramercy
- Although not recommended in the amended plan, a suggestion of having an interchange at Shady Grove & 355 due to traffic back up at the left turning lane - the plan does address traffic volume in the area
- The addition of op lanes was not included in the plan due to being proposed after the amendment had moved forward however the plan does address by adding more bus access and electrification centers for buses.
- To move forward with the development of the north side of Shady Grove Metro depends on capital funding which limits possible moving of the westside garage to the eastside and also adding more bus lanes.
- Discussion on how the plan addresses the future population increase with the coming new development and its impact on area transit-40% mode share goals for Shady Grove as the plan was adopted in 2021.
- Comments regarding Greater Shady Grove TDM elements of 50% for residents and 20% for employees which is not reflected in the peak period- not called peak hour
- The Commuter Survey results showed 32 percent non-auto driver mode share for residents, which will probably decrease as more commuters telework.

**Item 4 – Metro Update:** **Gary Erenrich** provided an update on Metro, commenting that according to its board meeting in October, the system is facing \$750 budget deficit in July2024. As Metro has a \$2 billion

Capital budget from the jurisdictions, it is seeking to do preventive maintenance as a cost saving measure. Also reported:

- Metro laid out different cost saving scenarios such as 60% workforce layoffs and stopping service @9pm
- Metro rail ridership is 60% of pre covid levels and the buses are doing better than pre covid levels as WMATA is adding more service.
- If preventive maintenance costs are maxed out, it will defer maintenance to vehicles providing service that may result in increased fares for parking and service.
- Jurisdictions can only increase funding by 3% and are regulated by the State, not WMATA- Maryland is unlikely to increase subsidy.
- A budget package will be put to Metro's board in December although it is unlikely that it will be ready to adopt.
- The return of Federal employees is good news for WMATA budget as Metro hopes decreasing inflation and fare invasion will also contribute to closing budget gap
- Metro's GM Randy Clark is more urban focused to the detriment of riders of the outer regions of the system.
- Since parking lots are seeing a decrease in usage making it difficult to save them from future development
- As development and population increase, Shady Grove metro is becoming a major transportation hub increasing the need for funding and build out of space for electric vehicles as part of the Climate mandates for the County.
- Metro's Lift program to reduce fare impacts by offering 50% fare reduction to low-income commuters.

The Q & A discussion consisted of:

- The \$2 weekend fare and capping Metro Access at \$4 has been going well- DC better with offering Metro Access alternatives.
- Filling the fiscal gap will cause a death spiral in ridership resulting in increased driving and impacting transit and development especially for the outer regions of the Metro system.
- EYA square footage has seen a decrease in areas around Metro providing for larger build outs in development and decreasing WMATA's capacity to keep up with system demands.

**Item 5 – Employer TDM Plans:** Jim Carlson presented a summary of employer TDM plans for review (1 voluntary) stating that they all meet the required strategies requirements and most are doing more than the minimum. The Committee recommended approval of the plans by MCDOT director.

**Item 6 – Marketing Outreach update:** Jenifer Bolick announced:

- Assisting Employers with their TDM plans and providing transit news updates.
- Car Free Day was a success due to outreach effort.
- Promoting the Walk & Ride contest to Employers
- Promotions regarding the upcoming COG Employer recognition awards

**Item 7 – Updates: Sande Brecher reported:**

- Climate action planning has a new Chief Officer, Sarah Kogel-Smucker who replaced Adrianna Hochberg- FY23 Climate Action Plan report to be published and briefing scheduled in late November.
- The Greater Shady Grove area had the highest number of teams for the Walk & Ride Challenge with 29 teams.
- The bike donation drive for BikeMatchMoCo went well
- Learn to ride bike classes being provided by MCDOT hosted by WABA.
- Looking to have a fall bike riding event.
- The Annual Commuter Survey results have been posted.

**Adjourned – Next meeting TBA**