

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
January 12, 2023**

**Items 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes:** Members & guests introduced themselves. October’s minutes were tabled.

**Item 3 – Purple Line Update: Christina Contreras** updated the Committee on the Purple Line’s construction progress, continuing **Marcela Cordova’s** presentation from last Spring. A new designer has been chosen – Maryland Transit Solutions, which is comprised of the firms Dragados & OHLA USA. The building team has recently finished a major transportation project in Long Island, New York. The Community Action Team (CAT) meetings will be held virtually for the Silver Spring area February 9<sup>th</sup>. The construction updates included:

- All 26 of the Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs) have been produced and are staged in Elmira, New York waiting for shipment to the Glen Ridge facility in Prince Georges County Maryland in Fall of 2023 to undergo testing.
- MTA continued construction during contract negotiations with utility relocation – with old construction in the Silver Spring area. Contractors don’t know what is underground until uncovering infrastructure.
- Starting in January there will be a long-term lane closure and single lane traffic flow on Wayne Avenue to allow for storm drain installations, utility adjustments and sidewalk replacements.
- On January 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be construction fencing for PL access construction at Silver Spring Library access on Bonifant; Wayne and Fenton will be maintained – working with businesses in area to put up an art wall along the fencing site.
- Silver Spring Transit Center (SSTC) construction work on third level for the Capital Crescent Trail CCT & train overpass and coordinating with WMATA & Ride-On to ensure operations - one lane access to TC during off peak hours.
- Ride on and Metro coordination needed for construction access for upper level of TC.
- For construction updates and questions email [outreach@purplelinemd.com](mailto:outreach@purplelinemd.com)

Q & A:

- **Ms. Contreras** reported that her team has requested a construction schedule from MTA and will submit for public view when it is received-purpleline.com for updates.
- Using the TRiPS commuter store to help get information out to the public about upcoming construction and particularly to the low vision population.
- Restriction to the second level of TC due to overhead steel work is restricting pedestrian access, but buses can get through - coordination with **Maritza De La Vega**, TRiPS store manager in how they can help with messaging.
- Pedestrians cannot walk under construction sites involving steel.

**Item 4 – Metro Update: Gary Erenrich** reported that it is a busy time for Metro due to FY24 budget planning and today they will approve a strategic plan update which is a requirement of Virginia legislation that is responsible for their portion of Metro’s funding. Public outreach and comment period will be made available regarding the plan. Also reported:

- Reinstating Metrorail turnbacks from Grosvenor has been tabled from the budget due to public outreach efforts and political pressure against the action - the turnbacks would cause riders to get off at Grosvenor Station to continue to Shady Grove station.
- Red Line rail frequency is improving and is up to pre-Covid levels due to the increased service of the 7000 series cars-Metro is increasing budgeting to decrease run times from 10 to 5 minutes.
- Dulles station on the Silverline, built by the Airport Authority, is the largest in the system.
- Potomac Yards station on the Yellow Line is due to open sometime in mid-2023.

Metro will have a board meeting in late January and will approve the docket for public Hearing.

Initiatives on the docket include:

- \$2 base fare and increase maximum to \$6.50 from \$6.00 – Montgomery County has the highest share of max fare riders which will place an undue burden on riders.
- Proposed elimination of peak and weekend fares having a one fare system – keeping the evening \$2 fare.
- Low-income fare program based on SNAP benefits- 50% reduced fare like the Senior Program.
- Ridership is higher on bus than rail - Q bus line has seen a 40% increase.
- Metro conducting a pilot on all door boarding on the F4 route by placing a SmarTrip pad at the rear door – issues with enforcement.

**Mr. Erenrich** discussion continued with uncertainty regarding free bus service in DC as the mayor is against the program due to lack of input by other jurisdictions. Also:

- Tactical bus lanes on Georgia Avenue between Wayne and 16<sup>th</sup> street- another pending on University Avenue
- Discussion regarding bikes in the tactical bus lanes and the safety issues associated - bikes are safer in the side bus lanes than in traffic as they will be fewer buses in tactical lanes than those open to vehicular traffic.
- **Mike Price** raised questions regarding safety and crime issues in the area as security cameras around stations do not seem to be a deterrent.

**Carson Henry** commented that other groups have police involvement at their meetings, which may be why the SS TMD has trouble obtaining their input as they may be spread too thin. The use of security cameras in obtain information regarding the capture of perpetrators is not publicized too soon to not negate apprehension efforts. Silver Spring Security Escort Service can assist walking people to their cars and garages have heavy security patrol- 240 876-2911

- It is not guaranteed that someone will be available to escort to cars as lack of available security personnel is an issue, and prescheduling is not an option- presenting security service to OMB to add funding to the initiative
- BTI is contracted under MCDOT to provide security for County garages
- Suggestion to invite Metro police to a future SS TMD meeting

**Item 5 – Employer Outreach Updates: Jennifer Bolick** announced:

- Working with employer & residential properties to obtain survey results- last survey was 2019
- The COG Employer recognition awards will be at the end of June. Encouraging employers to apply.
- Conducting outreach for Transportation Demand Management plans.

- Disseminating information regarding Ride On Reimagined.
- Bike-to-Work Day coming up in May.
- WABA hosted bike classes coming up in the Spring.
- **Sande Brecher** discussed the importance of recognizing that telecommuting is a form of commuting, especially when obtaining survey results.

**Item 6 – Employer TDM Plans/Reports:** **Jim Carlson** presented two employer plans to the Committee for recommendation of approval to MCDOT’s Director. The companies meet all requirements. He discussed reaching out to the Chamber and others about filling vacancies on the TMD Committee.

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

- The COG 2020 Climate Report shows a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions- two links provided in the chat.
- Continuing work on the Climate Action Plan (CAP)- quarterly updates posted to website.
- As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, the transit benefit increased to \$300 per month, up from \$280.
- Buildings were the largest reduction in GHG emissions as they convert over to electric.

**Item 8 – TMD Performance Report Update:** **Mr. Carlson** discussed the biennial report and asked for Committee input. A more consolidated report will be presented at a future meeting. **Mr. Carlson** explained that the NextGen laws sets goals in the Metro policy areas located inside the TMDs, which are the red policy areas. Orange policy areas have requirements based on square footage and employer size. The requirements are based on where a property is located within the County which requires tracking of how goals are met.

**Adjourn: Next meeting March 9, 2023**

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet  
January 12, 2023**

<b>Voting Members (12)</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Chamber Members (3)</b>			
Chris Kabatt	Wells + Associates	X	
Julie Statland	Statland & Katz, Ltd.		X
Vacant			
<b>Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)</b>			
Harriet Quinn	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Vacant	North & West Sector Plan Area		
Chris Perry	CBD Resident	X	
<b>Employers less than 50 employees (3)</b>			
Vacant			
Vacant			
Vacant			
<b>Employers with 50 or more employees (3)</b>			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Vacant			
Vacant			
<b>Non-Voting Members (3)</b>			
Sandra Brecher, DOT-Commuter Services	MCDOT Director or Designee	X	
Larissa Klevan	M-NCPPC	X	
Jacob Newman	Silver Spring Regional Center	X	
Sgt. Kerry Moore	Montgomery County Police		X
<b>Staff</b>			
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
Jim Carlson	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
<b>Guests</b>			
Jennifer Bolick	TMD Outreach Team	X	
Christina Contrares	Purple Line	X	
Carson Henry	SS Urban District	X	
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT	X	
Laura Van Eperen	Van Eperen & Co.	X	
Atara Margolies	M-NCPPC	X	
Andrew Wexler	M-NCPPC	X	