

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
January 14, 2021**

**Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes:** Members and guest introduced themselves. November meeting minutes were tabled.

**Item 3- Purple Line Update:** **Maricela Cordova**, MCDOT Purple Line Manager, gave an update of the Purple Line project, explaining that the general contractor Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP), responsible for the building and design of the project, terminated their contract with MTA October 2020. A punch list was completed focusing on safety issues and securing the job site; also, a letter from the County addressed issues of safety, traffic maintenance and project completion schedule among other concerns. In December PLTP reached an agreement with MDOT to continue the Purple Line project for \$150 million, when a new general contractor is to be selected. PLTP issued a Request for Qualifications for applicants, then a request for cost & technology proposals with a new contractor chosen by Fall 2021 and construction to resume early 2022. Also reported:

- The importance of keeping subcontractors on the project to ensure continuity of the project’s design
- A revised project workplan and schedule has not been received, pending new general contractor; however, funding is in place per MTA’s efforts
- MDOT has site maintenance responsibility for the project, and MTA conducted community walk-throughs addressing comments and concerns

**Ms. Cordova** commented that MTA’s executive management has been an improvement, being more communicative and open during the project’s progress.

- Project is 98% complete in the design phase, with structures in various stages of completion and with work continuing on the light rail vehicles - three vehicles completed to date
- The last property acquisition for Montgomery County and Capital Crescent Trail CCT access will be completed by the month’s end – CCT is in various stages of completion; however, will be inoperable until the Purple Line is completed
- Bethesda’s Metro south entrance construction requires a special contractor due to the specialized and complex structure design
- Green Trail design is complete - road widening on Wayne Avenue and utility relocation
- Traffic detours will impact the Silver Spring area indirectly due to bridge demolition and 7 – 8-month reconstruction schedule
- The steel structure crossing Colesville Road, CCT bridge erection was completed on time; however, upon selection of a new general contractor the decks, plaza and mezzanine will be completed
- MTA to conduct testing on the Bonifant West section of Bonifant Street between Georgia & Fenton, closed due to “Shared Streets” dining; the businesses have since moved – line utility relocations will take approximately four months to complete

- MTA is conducting prep work for the new incoming general contractor by restarting construction, utility relocation, retaining walls, and the new Kenwood Parking
- Art In Transit: 16 out of 22 contracts have been fully executed and photos can be viewed on the Purple Line website

The question and answer discussion from the Committee included:

- The rendering showing Silver Spring library station was viewed as inconsistent by some on the Committee as the proportions are incorrect – rendering presented to show that the train will travel under the library
- An explanation of two bills in the state legislature regarding the Purple Line - HB 080 to instruct MTA in Purple Line tree replacement; and SB 97 instructing MTA to fund \$500,000 for two fiscal years to support marketing and education efforts for street safety and to stimulate ridership
- No opening date set due to no new General Contractor chosen

**Item 4 – Metro Update:** Gary Erenrich gave an update on Metro, explaining that there are many moving targets regarding Metro’s current & future budgets. Due to Federal funding, the budget gap for fiscal year 21 has been secured; however, FY22 is still in danger of budget cuts to service due to the looming deficit. Also reported:

- \$610 million will be given to transit, with Metro receiving \$514 to cover FY21; but trouble looming for FY22 starting January 2022 – proposed no weekend rail service, station closings, reduced operation hours closing at 9 pm
- Questions regarding building up Metro ridership just to cut service later – Metro assumes that ridership will only grow to 35% - 40% of pre-Covid levels
- The bus system carries more passengers than rail during the pandemic
- Metro & Ride On are operating at 80% to promote social distancing during pandemic
- Metro is preparing docket for public hearing March 9, 2021 with budget approval in April
- Hope to receive \$20 to \$25 million for Ride On operations as it is not collecting fares due to the pandemic – fare collection will resume once safety barriers are in place
- Metro not happy with the design of Silver Line Phase 2 and will not take ownership until issues are remedied; however, cost to the region to get section up is \$36.5 million, this is to hire employees for segment

**Item 5- Employer TDM Plans:** Jim Carlson reported that there are a dozen plans for approval with some exceptions. The exceptions included:

- Excell-doesn’t apply due to not having 25 or more employees
- Marshalls not for consideration pending regional approval
- SEEC is outside the TMD
- Toole design will resubmit report

**The Committee approved for recommendation TDM plans**

The Committee discussion regarding attendance and new member recruitment:

- Schedules book up quickly with Covid related items
- Involving Marketing contractors in recruitment efforts
- Obtaining assistance from Jane Rediker and the Chamber
- Not much concern for transportation issues since people are not commuting due to the pandemic

**Item 6 – Employer Outreach Update: Jenifer Bolick** reported:

- Continuing Employer outreach efforts – teleworking productivity a concern
- Seeking nominees for COG Employer Awards, which consists of three categories: Transit Incentives, Employee Marketing and Telework

**Item 7 – Updates:** The Climate Action Plan draft is available for review on the website: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Climate](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Climate) and a virtual information room is also available. The transportation sections begin on page 114 with youth Resilience Climate Ambassadors available to engage the community. An all-TMD and Regional center briefing will be Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Public comment will be to end of February. Also announced:

- Electric vehicle EV group buy effort to reduce cost of vehicle purchasing – forum held for feedback and currently reviewing responses
- Capital Bikeshare corporate participation has been upgraded to make easier
- Bike Match program is seeking bike donations
- The Business Improvement District BID legislation was introduced to County Council that has the potential to transform downtown Silver Spring by shifting the administration and stewardship of the area from governmental agency to a private entity -public hearing on February 2nd

**Adjourn Next Meeting: March 11, 2021**

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet**

**January 14, 2021**

<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>			
Valerie Spencer	MayaTech	X	
Dar Maxwell	Panagora Group	X	
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	
Iftin Thompson	M-NCPPC	X	
Reemberto Rodriguez	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	Van Eperen & Co.	X	
Maricela Cordova	MCDOT	X	
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Sean Emerson	Councilmember Tom Hucker's office	X	
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT	X	
Christine McGrew	M-NCPPC	X	
Mel Tull	Lee Development	X	
Laura Van Eperen	Van Eperen & Co.	X	