

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report

SEPTEMBER 2015

Reemberto Rodriguez, Director

[1] Community Issues

Many of the Silver Spring community issues are transit related:

- The opening of the Silver Spring Transit Center;
- Nearing completion of the Langley Park Bus Center;
- Working with the Rapid Transit System Community Advisory Committees and the Transit Task Force;
- Reinitiating community contacts as the Purple Line project comes more into focus;
- Coordinating the implementation of various BiPPA (Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Area) projects;
- Resurfacing of major thoroughfares (Georgia Avenue and East West Hwy), with corresponding mid-block crosswalks;
- VanGo information dissemination blitz;
- Growing the number of Bikeshare stations; and, various parking related matters (i.e. change in procedure for garage gates operation; and, parking for construction worker.)

Constituent interest in these projects is major. Inquire for information and updates is a constant. We are working with the many local and state agencies, helping coordinate presentations (i.e. Purple Line Meeting September 17), and ensuring the various advisory groups remain in the loop (see next page.)

Fall is Festival Season, starting in September. To name a few coming up in the next few weeks in downtown alone:

- The First Silver Spring Restaurant Week;
- Jazz Festival;
- Maker Faire;
- Latin American Film Festival;
- PanaFest;
- New American Expo.
- Outside of downtown, there are at least three community festivals planned, plus the Takoma Park Folk Festival.

This means extensive coordinating with event managers, be them private, non-profit, or public sector. This also means mitigating the impact (i.e.: crowd control, street closing and traffic flow management, refuse collection and disposal, etc.) for many of these events.

[2] Advisory Groups

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board (Monday, September 14th)

In July, the SSCAB heard from the Connie Latham, Director for the Boards, Committees, and Commissions as part of their annual mini-retreat. In September, they will hear from the developers of CitiPlace (renamed Ellsworth Place) as they continue their renovations; and, from Will Kenlaw (DOT) regarding the opening of the Transit Center.

Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee (Tuesday, September 8th)

At the September meeting the Committee heard from Susan Hoffmann regarding the performance of the Black Box Theater; from Reemberto Rodriguez regarding the various place-making efforts in downtown Silver Spring; and, did a comprehensive reporting of what venues represented by Committee members have planned for the Fall. The next meeting is set for December 1st.

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee (Thursday, September 17)

There was not meeting in August. There is no meeting in August. In September they will hear from Will Kenlaw (DOT) regarding the opening of the Transit Center; and, Jose Thommana, the new Parking Lot District Director.

Silver Spring Transportation Management Advisory Committee (Thursday, September 10th)

There was no meeting in August. In September they will hear from Gary Erenrich (DOT) regarding the various transportation projects in Silver Spring and the operational matters as the Transit Center gets ready to open.

The Regional Center also follows and/or participates in other Advisory Groups:

- Youth Advisory Committee. (Will restart in the Fall.)
- Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee. (Next meeting October 1st.)
- Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority. Getting ready for the opening of 'the other' transit center in the Regional Area, at the intersection of University Blvd and New Hampshire. While the Center is technically in Prince George County, it will serve the East side of the Silver Spring Regional Area – and much of East County.

If you have not done so yet: *Please subscribe to the Regional Center's e-Newsletter from the link found at www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/SilverSpring*