

Transportation Services Advisory Council
Minutes of July 27, 2020 Meeting
Via Web Ex

Members/Ex-Officio Present: Mike Levensgood, Neil Fay, Tim Davis, Jaime McKay, Alan Feinberg, Alderman Kelly Russell, David Edmondson, Sharon Suarez, Fred Punturiero, Wilfred Plumley, Vaughn Ripley, and Roman Steichen.

Staff and Guests: Kandese Holford, Carolyn True, Kyle Nembhard, Darius Mark, John McCarthy, Cherian Eapen, Dennis Superczynski, Ron Burns, Mike Mishler, Joe Kelley, Angel Negrón, Monica Bearden, Emilee Blackburn, Carrie Anderson-Watters, Kendall Tiffany, and Sandy Ruark.

Call to Order: Mike Levensgood called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Introductions: Attendees confirmed their attendance in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the January meeting were approved as presented.

Elected Officials Report: Alderman Russell reported that the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) has taken significant actions to:

- Adopt a safety plan to make recommendations to the Region to reduce fatality and serious injury crashes. There will be approximately 50 recommendations that will be issued for jurisdictions to use. These recommendations are a result of a study conducted over a year and a half period.
- Approved the National Capital Trail system which will be a map connecting all regional members of the Transportation Planning Board. It will show all trail systems, current and future, and how the region will eventually all be connected.
- Commuter Connections is also working on developing template documents and guidance that may be used for developing telework programs.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

MARC Cornerstone Plan: Kyle Nembhard presented a slideshow on the MARC Cornerstone Plan. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Purpose of the Plan
- MD Transportation Plan Priorities
- MDOT MTA Cornerstones – Safety, Efficiency, Reliability, and World Class Customer Service
- MARC Train Service and Ridership

The MARC Cornerstone Plan presentation can be viewed at:

https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/328171/MARC_CSP_TSACPresentation.

New Design Road Side Path: John McCarthy presented a slideshow on the New Design Road Side Path project. The project is in Phase I, 30% Design Plan, funded through a grant from the Transportation Land-Use Connections Program. The next phase of the project is to apply for funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program to advance the design and construction.

Phase I of the New Design Road Side Path plan can be viewed at:

<https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/328172/NEW-DESIGN-ROAD-SIDE-PATH>.

Planning Commission Update: Sharon Suarez reported that under Livable Frederick work on small area plans has started. She asked Denis Superczynski to report on progress to date. Denis reported that work has begun in two areas – Sugarloaf and the South Frederick Corridor. Plans for the Sugarloaf area will focus on natural resources, open spaces, and the character of the area. The focus of the South Frederick Corridor area will be the Monocacy MARC station utilizing transit-oriented development into the future. The Planning Commission anticipates public effort to begin in the fall.

Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Update: Jaime McKay reported on MTA efforts that have occurred during COVID-19:

- MARC train services returned to regular service.
- Commuter Bus service will return to regular service on July 27, 2020.
- In lieu of cash, MTA is recommending use of the CHARM app to purchase fares.
- Enhanced disinfecting of equipment, particularly interior surfaces, is being done on a daily basis.
- MTA requested riders to minimize unnecessary travel and to stay at home when possible.

SHA Update: Kandese reported that SHA is preparing to conduct a virtual CTP season anticipating statewide budget shortfalls. Kandese provided an update on a few of the major Frederick County projects:

- MD 140 at Flat Run Bridge Replacement – Scheduled completion end of July 2020.
- MD 180 Jefferson Pike Reconstruction – Scheduled completion by end of 2020.
- US 15 Auxiliary Lane at Rt. 26 and Motter Avenue – Open to traffic.
- US 15 Mt. Zion Park & Ride – Project ready to be advertised for bids.
- Draft of US 15 Managed Lane Planning Study is on the SHA website for review.

FCPS Update: Fred reported that his office is awaiting a decision by the Board of Education as to how they will proceed with providing educational services this fall. Fred stated that from a transportation perspective, the following actions have been taken:

- Conducted bus inspections and preventive maintenance,
- Purchased cleaning supplies, sprayers, and disinfectants,
- Routes have been re-designed -- Linganore/Urbana/Oakdale redistricting is complete, and
- Delivery of the new buses has been delayed.

Fred reported that FCPS is currently providing public transportation services to three areas – Washington County, Carroll County, and Baltimore. Masks are being worn and daily disinfecting and contact tracing is in place.

Fred reported that FCPS is continuing to provide food services on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 12 locations.

Fred reported that the school bus driver training continues with drivers practicing social distancing as directed.

Fred stated that no new elimination of services is expected this year.

Ft. Detrick Update: Wilfred Plumley introduced himself as the new Deputy Garrison Commander and noted that Jason Gusman is now the Command Sargeant Major. Wilfred provided the following updates:

- The Veterans' Gate on 7th Street was closed at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now open from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday only.
- Old Farm Gate has adjusted hours and closes at 6:00 pm daily.
- Nallin Pond Visitors' Center Gate remains closed. However, anyone needing entry can go to the Visitor Center Building on the right after entering the gate to get a visitor's pass. Visitors must have a valid "Real ID" or two forms of federal ID to get a temporary visitor's pass.

MML Update: Councilman Ripley had no items to report.

TransIT Update: Roman Steichen reported the following:

- TransIT's Transit Development Plan (TDP) is underway. The consultant is currently reviewing transit service in Frederick County. TSAC is to be heavily involved in the process and initial input from members has been forwarded to the consultant for consideration.
- TransIT's facility renovation is on hold due to possible budget issues at MTA resulting from COVID-19.
- TransIT took delivery of three (3) BYD buses. Kendall Tiffany is working on "Powered By the Sun" graphics for the buses as their power will be totally supplied by the County's solar farm.
- TransIT has received CARES funding from FTA that will be used to preserve service and personnel as it is anticipating operating budget cuts from MTA.
- TransIT is working on a procurement package for bus barriers to address COVID-19 as well as to serve as physical protection for drivers.
- As of July 1, 2020, TransIT no longer is a Medical Assistance transportation provider for the Frederick County Health Department as Maryland is moving to a brokerage system for Medical Assistance trips. These trips will be sourced to private transportation providers in the County.
- TransIT's bus shelter project has been put on hold due to COVID-19. Material shortages and work stoppages have affected project progress.
- The rural community shuttle project has been put on hold due to COVID-19. County Executive Gardner may elect to reinstate the project at a later date.

- The Taxi Access Program (TAP) now has four (4) providers in the County -- one has Spanish speaking drivers and dispatchers and two of the four providers have wheelchair lift equipped vehicles.

Kendall Tiffany provided an overview of TransIT's Employer Outreach program. A contractor works with employers in Frederick County to assist in implementing any transportation benefits for restaurant workers, hotel staff, etc. to providing flex scheduling, teleworking suggestions, etc. to employers. Kendall stated that the service is free to anyone in Frederick County and if an employer needs assistance in implementing a telework plan to contact her. The current vendor's contract ends September 30, 2020 and a Request for Proposals from bidders for the new contract term closes this week.

Kendall reported that fare capping project in Token Transit has been put on hold due to COVID-19. Token Transit has created a program on Google Maps that will have a feature that will allow riders to pay their fare through Google.

Kendall stated that Car Free Day is still scheduled for September 22, 2020 even though most employees are teleworking. This year's emphasis will be on teleworking, bicycling, and walking. Event materials will be distributed shortly.

Next Meeting: The next TSAC Meeting will be October 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. via Web Ex.

Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sandra T. Ruark
Coordinator