

Transportation Services Advisory Council
Minutes of October 16, 2020 Meeting
Via Web Ex

Members/Ex-Officio Present: Jaime McKay, Neil Fay, Maria Lorenzana-Castro, Alderman Kelly Russell, David Edmondson, Fred Punturiero, Wilfred Plumley, Vaughn Ripley, and Roman Steichen.

Staff and Guests: Kandese Holford, Darren Bean, Cherian Eapen, Mark Mishler, Shayne Boucher, Monica Bearden, Malcolm Furgol, Emilee Blackburn, Carrie Anderson-Watters, Kendall Tiffany, and Sandy Ruark.

Call to Order: Jaime McKay called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Introductions: Attendees confirmed their attendance in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the July meeting were not approved as there was no quorum present.

Elected Officials Report: Alderman Russell reported that the City of Frederick completed the review of the Comprehensive Plan of 2020. The plan will be presented to the Mayor and Board of Alderman on November 11, 2020. Alderman Russell asked that anyone with comments submit them as soon as possible.

Alderman Russell also reported that the Board of Alderman approved extensions of outdoor dining ordinances through October 2021, allowing outdoor dining to continue next spring and also allowing food trucks to operate.

Alderman Russell stated that the Washington Council of Governments (WashCOG) co-signed a letter with the Transportation Planning Board urging Congress to pass a second round of emergency funding for transportation as current funding is nearly depleted.

Councilman Vaugh Ripley reported that Phase I of Othello Park has opened and the Brunswick Council is working diligently with the City of Frederick to connect downtown to Othello Park with a bike path. They are also working on connecting Rivers Edge Trail to Othello as well as the C&O Canal towpath. Councilman Ripley stated the Brunswick Council recently met with MTA Administrator Kevin Quinn to discuss possible projects in the Brunswick area to connect Brunswick with Frederick. One project being funded is the investigation of the feasibility of constructing a walking/biking bridge across the railroad tracks to connect the C&O Canal Towpath to Brunswick.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

MDOT MTA Statewide Transit Plan: Jaime McKay presented a slideshow on the MTA Statewide Transit Plan that will unify transit plans across the State for 50 years. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Proposed Approach to the Plan
- Schedule for Development of the Plan
- Key Challenges and Opportunities
- Identification of Regional Priorities

The presentation can be viewed in its entirety at:

https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/330322/MTA-Statewide-Transit-Plan_TSAC_1016202.

United Way ALICE Report: Malcolm Furgol presented a slideshow of United Way's Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) household report. Highlights included:

- Household Survival Budgets
- Household Income Comparisons
- Pathway to Transportation Program
- 2020 Advocacy Platform for ALICE Households

The report can be viewed at:

https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/330321/ALICE-Report_October-2020.

Planning Commission Update: Sharon Suarez not present; no report.

Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Update: Jaime McKay had no report; however, she stated that the proposed service changes in Baltimore have been eliminated due to advocacy efforts. Jaime also said that MTA would be adjusting service levels on MARC Train and Commuter Bus as a result of COVID-19.

SHA Update: Kandese provided an update on a few major Frederick County projects:

- MD 85 – Median work is in progress on I-270. Crews are also installing water lines and storm drains on MD 85. Utility work is also continuing.
- MD 180 Jefferson Pike Reconstruction – Road striping is underway and the traffic switch to follow. Concrete work for the three islands on MD 180 is coming to a close. Landscaping work will occur in October 2020.
- US 15 Mt. Zion Park & Ride – The project's Notice to Proceed has been delayed until January 2021.
- Kandese will provide a Context Driven presentation at next TSAC Meeting in January 2021.

FCPS Update: Fred Punturiero reported that FCPS is continuing to provide transportation service to students, with the number of students increasing a little each week. The Board of education continues to make decisions as to which students will attend school and where.

Fred stated that FCPS is continuing to work on its infrastructure through the VW settlement. They have ordered two electric school buses for next year. Infrastructure work plans will begin in November 2020.

Ft. Detrick Update: Wilfred Plumley stated he had no new information to report. Gates remain operating as they were with the onset of COVID-19 manpower shortages:

- The Veterans' Gate on 7th Street 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 Gate is open 24/7.

MML Update: Councilman Ripley reported Roger Wilson was recently appointed President of the Frederick Chapter of the MML. The next MML virtual meeting will be held next week.

TransIT Update: Roman Steichen reported:

- Due to budget shortfalls resulting from COVID-19, TransIT's State's portion of its FY21 operating grant awards were cut 20%, and no State funding will be released for capital grants. TransIT has received CARES Act funding to replace the loss of State funding. TransIT was given funding to purchase two new buses and the renovation of its facility.
- A Pre-Construction Meeting for the facility renovation was held and it appears groundbreaking will occur in December 2020. TransIT staff will be temporarily relocated to construction trailers, however, most Administrative staff will continue to telework during construction.
- TransIT is still operating with zero bus fares to alleviate burdens on those financially affected by the pandemic and to minimize driver/passenger contact.
- All pandemic precautions continue - facility and vehicle disinfecting, use of personal protective equipment, and masks are required for all drivers and passengers on the vehicles. Masks are being provided on vehicles for those needing one. Physical distancing between drivers and passengers is also being practiced.
- As part of its COVID response and utilizing CARES Act funding, TransIT will be installing protective barriers on its vehicles.
- TransIT is currently operating at 100% service with approximately 70% pre-pandemic ridership.
- When bus fares are reinstated, all military veterans will be eligible for a reduced fare.

Kendall Tiffany stated if anyone would like a copy of the ALICE presentation to send her an email request and she would forward it to them.

Next Meeting: The next TSAC Meeting will be January 15, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Web Ex.

Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Coordinator