

**Transportation Services Advisory Council**  
**Minutes of October 15, 2021 Meeting**  
**Via Web Ex**

**Members/Ex-Officio Present:** Tim Davis, Maria Lorenzana-Castro, Christina Forbes, Joe Conny, Thomas Davy, Tiffany Fossett, Joshua Bokee, Councilman Steve McKay, Alderman Kelly Russell, David Edmondson, Carol Sepe, Wilfred Plumley, Vaughn Ripley, and Roman Steichen.

**Staff and Guests:** Joel Eisenfeld, Morgan Berry, Mark Mishler, Cherian Eapen, Shradda Praharaj, Monica Bearden, Darren Bean, David Schlie, Jaime McKay, Kendall Tiffany, and Sandy Ruark.

**Call to Order:** Tim Davis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves in the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the July meeting were approved as presented.

**Elected Officials Report:** Alderman Russell reported that a Candidate Forum was held last night sponsored by the League of Women Voters and United Way. An issue regarding the adequacy of transit was raised with no positive feedback. Alderman Russell attempted to put facts regarding transit into the record but suggested that the public may need to be more educated on transit to fully understand how the system works. Alderman Russell also added that the City elections were underway.

Councilman McKay reported that Councilman Hagan introduced a Bill to the County Council regarding electric vehicles. The Bill would put the design of electric vehicles into the County Ordinance and prohibit non-electric vehicles from using the electric vehicle charging stations. A public comment was received that would require electric vehicles to actually be charging rather than just using the stations as a convenient parking space. Councilman McKay stated that Councilman Hagan may amend the Bill and it may be voted on at the next County Council Meeting.

Tim Davis announced that the Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM) awarded TransIT Services of Frederick County the COVID 19 Above and Beyond Award for 2021 and also one of its driver, Ricardo Hernandez, was recognized as Driver of the Year for 2021.

**Old Business:** Joel Eisenfeld presented an update on the Transportation Development Plan (TDP) currently being developed. Highlights included:

- Draft Final Plan Organized in Four Sections
  - Service Plan
  - Title VI Analysis
  - Conceptual Financial Plan for Operating
  - Conceptual Financial Plan for Capital
- Preparation of the Final TDP

The presentation can be viewed in its entirety on TransIT's website at: [DEVELOPING A MICROTRANSIT PROGRAM \(frederickcountymd.gov\)](https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/developing-a-microtransit-program)

### **New Business:**

**TSAC Amended Bylaws:** TSAC members voted to recommend approval of the amended Bylaws to County Executive Gardner and the County Council.

**TSAC Legislative Priorities Letter:** Tim Davis presented TSAC's FY23 Legislative Priorities letter that was forward to County Executive Gardner for consideration. The priorities included:

- Dialysis providers to contribute to transportation costs for their clients.
- Increase 5311 (rural fixed route transit) operations funding.
- Additional paratransit funding.
- Increase 5307 (urban area fixed route transit) operations funding.
- Request FTA to modify revenue vehicle spare ratio.
- Reinforcing municipal and inter-jurisdictional coordination on improving passenger amenities.

Tim Davis asked Roman if he knew when the priorities package was going to be submitted and Roman does not know at this time.

**"No Stopping" Signage:** Shradda Praharaj reported that the City of Frederick would be installing "No Parking" signs at bus stops. The City looked at several bus stop locations and submitted a work order to install "No Stopping" signs at bus stops and will move some existing stops a few feet to allow for better accessibility. Currently, the City is awaiting approval of the work order.

Jaime McKay added that TransIT buses cannot access the curb line at certain bus stops so they have taken action to alleviate the problem. With the "No Parking" signs in place, the buses will be able to pull into and out of the bus stops and have sufficient space to operate lifts for those with wheelchairs and/or mobility problems. Jaime stated that the installation of the "No Parking" signs will enhance TransIT's customer service and that the City of Frederick has been an excellent partner in coordinating this effort.

**Federal/County Funding Priorities Letter:** Joshua Bokee requested that with the Federal funding opportunities currently available that TSAC provide a letter to the County Executive requesting that these funds be used to make some one-time transit improvements, i.e., bus shelters, automated speaker systems announcing bus stops. Jaime McKay responded that TransIT is currently working with other County divisions in determining coordinated funding requests and will follow-up with TSAC when complete.

**Planning Commission Update:** Carol Sepe reported that the Planning Division:

- Recently approved the preliminary plan for the extension of the western section of Lake Linganore Boulevard to Meadows Road providing better access to Rt. 70.
- Started the workshops on the Sugarloaf Small Area Plan which includes interchanges at I-270.
- Workshops have just begun on the South Corridor Plan.

**Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Update:** Luke Benson was not present but forwarded an email update to Jaime McKay. Jamie reported:

- Frederick County MDOT Tour was held; and a few project updates were provided, specifically the construction of the Mt. Zion Park & Ride.
- Support for local transit agencies through technical assistance and grant funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**SHA Update:** David Schlie presented an update on the following SHA projects:

- Mt. Zion Park & Ride - \$4 million project. Construction began in March 2021; expected completion in summer 2022.
- MD 85 Widening, Phase I – Widening of Buckeystown Pike through the I-270 interchange to six lanes. Project 80% complete; anticipated completion is the fall of 2022.
- Golden Mile Project – This is a City of Frederick project with funding through a Transportation Alternatives Grant providing a shared use path along the north side of US 40 between Baughman's Lane and Waverly Drive. The City of Frederick received \$685,000 for 100% design development and is currently working on selecting the design consultant. Notice to Proceed to occur fall 2022.

Tim Davis mentioned that the SHA website shows a video of a partial diverging diamond which would be very helpful for residents in Frederick County. Tim recommended that everyone share the video with their colleagues so they gain an understanding of how traffic will flow in this new configuration.

Joe Conny asked for an update on the temporary work occurring at the northbound I-270 off ramp to MD 85. David will contact the project manager and respond to him. Carol Sepe agreed and added that current conditions are very dangerous.

Carol Sepe questioned the phasing of the US 340 Park and Ride construction. She asked why the lot was paved prior to storm water management being complete. David responded that he would contact the project manager and respond to Carol, but he is aware that there were storm water design issues with the project.

**FCPS Update:** Fred Punturiero not present; no report.

**Ft. Detrick Update:** Wilfred Plumley reported that there had been discussion concerning closing Veterans Gate (7<sup>th</sup> Street), however, the gate will remain open with no change in hours, 0600 through 1400, Monday through Friday.

David Edmondson reported that the City of Frederick is planning for a protected bicycle lane on the south side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street which may impact access to Veterans Gate. David stated that the City of Frederick will work with the Garrison to integrate the bicycle infrastructure with their traffic flow. Wilfred requested that the City of Frederick provide the Garrison with the draft plan so they can determine if it will impact access to the base or not.

**MML Update:** Councilman Ripley had no items to report for either the MML or Brunswick. He did mention that he is interested in possibly joining the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

**TransIT Update:** Jaime McKay reported:

- TransIT is working with the Frederick County Health Department to provide a mobile vaccination clinic. To date, they have provided more than 600 vaccinations. TransIT is also working with many community agencies to ensure vaccinations are available to those who wish to receive it.
- TransIT met with Ft. Detrick's Chief of Army Community Service to reinforce that TransIT provides access to public transportation for those on base and that we are committed to employing military and veteran clients. TransIT is currently hiring drivers as well as a fiscal administrator and data analyst.
- TransIT is working on identifying strategies for driver recruitment and retention.
- TransIT continues to operate without collecting fares but will provide 30-day notice when fares are reinstated so the public has ample time to purchase tickets.
- The TransIT facility construction project is on budget and on track for early winter occupancy, pending any further supply chain issues. Hopefully, April's TSAC Meeting will be held in the new building.

Tim Davis asked if TransIT would be providing an election shuttle for the City of Frederick's elections and Roman responded that it would.

Tiffany Fossett reported that a Legislative Town Hall Meeting was held earlier in the week where County Executive Gardner presented suggestions for legislative issues from the County's Boards and Commissions and allowed for public comment. The meeting can be viewed on Frederick County's website.

Next Meeting: The next TSAC Meeting will be January 21, 2022 via WebEx at 9:30 am.

**Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Administrative Coordinator