

**Transportation Services Advisory Council**  
**Minutes of October 21, 2022 Meeting**  
**Via Web Ex**

**Members/Ex-Officio Present:** Tim Davis, Christina Forbes, Tiffany Fossett, Joshua Bokee, Thomas Davy, Joseph Conny, Hongwei Xu, Councilman Steve McKay, Alderman Kelly Russell, David Edmondson, Carol Sepe, Fred Punturiero, Wilfred Plumley, Mark Mishler, and Darren Bean.

**Staff and Guests:** Shraddha Praharaj, David Schlie, Shayne Boucher, Kendall Tiffany, and Sandy Ruark.

**Call to Order:** Tim Davis called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**Introductions:** Kendall Tiffany requested the attendees to introduce themselves.

Tim Davis mentioned:

- There are still a couple of vacancies on TSAC even after today's recommended appointments. Tim asked if anyone knew of someone who would be interested in joining the Council to have them contact him.
- Tim stated that a popular item in the past was that TSAC members would invite a guest who have an interest in transportation to join the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the July meeting were approved with noted corrections.

**Elected Officials Report:** Councilman McKay shared a presentation on Amending the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) which is being presented to the Council for approval. A final vote of the proposed revised APFO will be held next Tuesday. Major points of interest included:

- The definition of what the APFO is; nature of the review of the amendments made in 2011, and review of key changes. A summary of the key changes involve:
  1. Raising the standards for developments to qualify as "limited impact development" which allow the development to pay into pro rate escrow accounts rather than constructing needed transportation improvements. Lowers the level of service (LOS) from less than 50% to less than 30% of an LOS grade.
  2. Reducing approval periods from the Frederick County Planning Commission.
  3. Increasing Public Transparency and Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) to increase public awareness of the TIA.
  4. Raising LOS mitigation standards which toughens traffic congestion standards for new development.
  5. Reintroducing Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities back into the APFO.

A lengthy discussion and clarifications on the plan were requested by members regarding the information provided. Scott Bokee confirmed that the presentation was for informational purposes for TSAC.

Alderman Russell reported:

- She recently received notice at the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) regarding our 2020 climate goals. Preliminary results indicate that the region met and surpassed its climate goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.

This was accomplished through a cleaner electrical grid, decreased driving, and decreased energy intensity. Alderman Russell added that Frederick County, as part of the Washington Metropolitan Region, contributed to this reduction through its use of its electric buses, solar panels, and the City of Frederick purchasing all of its energy through renewable sources.

### **Old Business:**

**Current TSAC Goals:** Tim Davis reported that the current goals listed on the TSAC website should be reviewed and updated as some are no longer relevant. He requested members review the goals and be prepared to present any suggested revisions at the next meeting.

### **New Business:**

**New Member Vote:** TSAC members voted to recommend the appointment of Gary Bennett as an At-Large Member (six members in favor and one member abstained) and Aaron Heiner as a Community Agency representative to TSAC (seven members in favor).

**TransIT Update:** Kendall Tiffany reported:

- TransIT is still experiencing a CDL driver shortage to the point of discontinuing some peak service. In an effort to help alleviate this issue, TransIT is beginning its own CDL training program.
- TransIT's FY24 Annual Transportation Plan submission is underway. Operating funding remains flat; however, TransIT will be requesting funding for a new full time trainer position. TransIT will be requesting a letter of support from TSAC for submission to MTA at January's meeting.
- TransIT is coordinating with other local operating transportation systems to develop and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for new Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) replacement software. This will allow dispatchers and the public to track vehicle locations in real time and create real time effective data reporting. The current vendor is no longer functional for its needs. TransIT is hopeful to issue the RFP in early 2023.
- TransIT is beginning to evaluate its bus network redesign by conducting in reach or outreach efforts with internal staff about opportunities and challenges with existing routes. TransIT hopes to have a more formal schedule to share with members by the next TSAC Meeting.
- TransIT's Better Bus Stops and Transfer Facilities is underway with improvements completed or identified at select bus stops across the system. TransIT is working with the City of Frederick and Frederick County Department of Public Works to identify and prioritize bus stops for improvement. Josh Bokee requested a comprehensive list of what bus stop improvements are planned to be sent to members for review before the next TSAC Meeting.

**Planning Commission Update:** Carol Sepe reported that the Frederick County Planning Commission has started working on the South Frederick Corridor Plan. Carol stated it would be helpful for TSAC to provide feedback on the plan and she plans to propose to the Planning Commission that the draft plan be sent to TSAC for review, especially considering that next portion of the plan includes road infrastructure and proposed realignment of certain roads. Carol stated that she would also appreciate TSAC's input on proposed sidewalks and intersections as well.

The next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for the second week of November, and she plans to provide TSAC with a draft of the plan following that meeting.

Mark Mishler reported that the Planning Department has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for bicycle feasibility studies. The project has been funded by Frederick County. As part of that effort, they will be seeking public input. If anyone would like to participate in the study, the County will be looking at links between Frederick and Urbana, Mt. St. Mary's College (Emmitsburg) and Thurmont, and Middletown and Myersville.

**SHA Update:** David Schlie provided updates on:

- US 15 and Mt. Zion Park & Ride – Project is complete.
- MD 85 and I-270 Interchange – Final paving work is being completed. Anticipated completion is November 2022.
- SHA published its draft consolidated transportation program in September which is its six-year capital program. A major improvement is for the widening of US 15 which was fully funded and will increase the existing four lanes to six lanes between I-70 to MD 26. The project is funded through the Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA) which is the federal infrastructure bill that was approved last year. Construction to begin in 2025-2026 timeframe. Thomas Davey asked if the project included any realignment of the southbound section at Rt. 40 where US 15 is curved. David reported that the bulk of the work is focused on the north side of US 15 but he will check to see if any work is scheduled in that area.

**Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) Update:** Tim Davis reported that Frederick County's MDOT tour will be held on Monday, October 24, 2022, at 7:00 pm at Winchester Hall. The meeting is set up virtually as well so that those interested can call into the meeting if unable to attend in person.

Tim Davis stated that Mark Mishler and others involved in transportation throughout the County will be working together to develop the annual transportation priority letter. The letter outlines every transportation item in the County related to federal and state projects, including those relating to TransIT. Tim distributed a list of the TransIT related items to members by email as a refresher. In talking with Transit staff, Tim felt it would be a good idea for MDOT to support TransITplus, the County's paratransit service. After their discussion, they agreed to create a letter encouraging MDOT to increase its funding for paratransit, as its funding has been flat for decades. Those additional funds would be used to hire drivers and to purchase buses for the paratransit service. Tim asked if anyone objected to him submitting the letter to the Secretary of Transportation on behalf of TSAC to please let him know otherwise, he will forward it to MDOT on Monday.

Joshua Bokee stated that the MDOT Tour is also a good opportunity for constituents to mention to MDOT staff that the past General Assembly passed a bill regarding setting certain design requirements in the expansion of MARC service.

**FCPS Update:** Fred Punturiero reported that FCPS is continuing to work diligently to hire CDL drivers. They are still experiencing a driver shortage, but it is not as critical as last year. FCPS has their two electric school buses on the road and are only experiencing a few issues with them. Tim asked Fred if FCPS still had its CDL driver training program in place. Fred acknowledged that the program was in place and explained some of the fundamentals of how the program works.

**Ft. Detrick Update:** Wilfred Plumley reported the Garrison is constantly striving to improve outreach to the community and have planned activities. All are welcome to attend:

- For football fans, on November 18th, a Turkey Bowl will be held on base. The game will be held in front of the headquarters building at the Blue and Gray Field at 1:00 pm.
- On November 19th, a 5K race will be held at 8:00 am. The race is open to all, and the cost is \$5.00. Plan to come 15 minutes early to get a pass to go on base if you don't already have one.
- On December 1st, a tree lighting ceremony will be held at Blue and Gray Field. Hot chocolate will be available, and attendees will sing holiday songs.

**MML Update:** Major Debby Burgoyne not present, no report.

Next Meeting: The next TSAC Meeting will be January 20, 2023, via WebEx at 11:02 am.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra J. Quark".

Administrative Coordinator