

**Transportation Services
Advisory Council Minutes of
January 17, 2025 Meeting
Via Web Ex**

Members/Ex-Officio Present: Joshua Bokee, Aaron Heiner, Councilmember Renee Knapp, Alderman Kelly Russell, Carol Sepe, Thomas Davy, Joseph Conny, Christina Forbes, Christine Traini, David Edmondson, Mark Mishler, and Hongwei Xu.

Staff and Guests: Jaime McKay, Mary Dennis, Shayne Boucher, Shraddha Praharaj, Landen Lombardo, Ken Oldham, David Schlie, Darren Bean, and Serena Balassi.

Call to Order: Jaime called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Introductions: Jaime facilitated introductions, and members introduced themselves. Attendance was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the October meeting were approved as submitted.

Council Member Comments:

Council Member Renee Knapp made the following comments:

- Thanks to Mark Mishler for the presentation to County Council.

Elected Officials' Comments:

Alderman Kelly Russell made the following comments:

- City Government making changes, now chairperson of public safety committee.
- Approved contract for a consultant for redesign Safe Streets for all- Consider Transit in these plans.
- MD Municipal League- yearly scholarship opportunity for high school students.

Transit Update: Jaime McKay and Mary Dennis reported:

- Most recent Adopt-a-Stop organization: United Way of Frederick County
- ThermoFisher Green Committee meeting -shared commuting information and Transit resources to ThermoFisher staff.
- Bike to Work Day: please save the date for Thursday, May 15th.
- Ridership update from the start of the Fiscal year – July 2024 until December 2024.
- Budget Overview: Transit funding comes from various sources, with the majority from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) formula evaluates funding based on service area, ridership, mileage, hours, and

population. Rural routes receive different funding and typically operate longer distances.

- Funding Types & Allocation:

- Three main funding sources are 5307, 5311, and SSTAP. The operating split is typically 50% federal, 30% state, and 20% local, with Frederick County Government matching each program. SSTAP funding will increase with inflation.

- Capital Funding:

- Requests for FY26 include 7-8 new buses, with an average cost of \$600,000 each. The fleet's oldest buses are from 2010 and are approaching 15 years of service. There is also a request for \$1.2 million for electric buses, although this request was removed in favor of more diesel buses at a lower cost.

- Acknowledgments:

- Jaime thanked the Fleet Maintenance team at FCG for their work in keeping buses operational.

Agency Updates:

Mark Mishler reported:

- 2025 Transportation Priority Letter. Question about construction funding in FY28, specifically regarding the Amazon delivery tax.

Open Discussion:

Josh Bokee reported:

- Drafting a TSAC cover letter. Made a motion for a letter of support for MTA.

Joe Conny shared:

- Thanked everyone for the open discussion and raised an issue about Hayward Road and the implications of bike lanes. Specifically, he noted problems related to Opossumtown Pike to Hayward Road, highlighting biking issues.

Chairman Concluding Remarks:

Next Meeting: The next TSAC Meeting will be April 18th, 2025, via WebEx, at 9:30 am.

Submitted by Mary Dennis, Communications Manager