



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of January 25, 2016

### *Information to Share*

#### **President Trump Acts Against Sanctuary Cities**

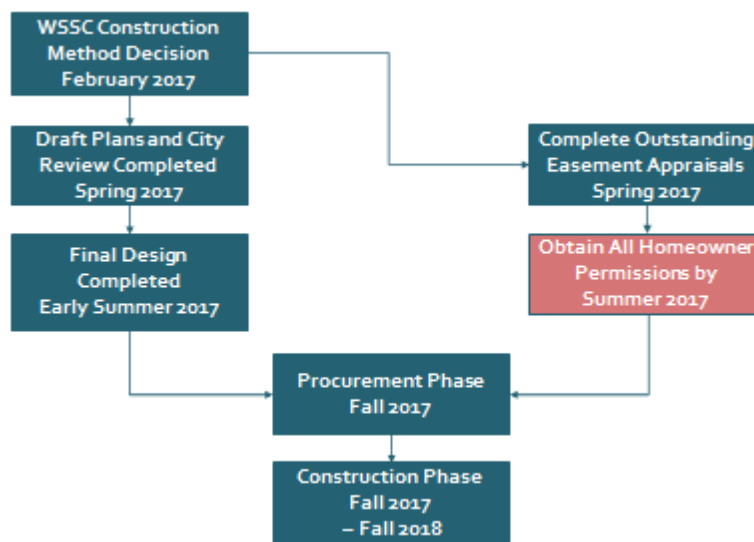
Today, President Trump issued an Executive Order that restricts Federal grants to Sanctuary Cities. As Federal grants are awarded in a number of ways and there are various ways of being a Sanctuary City, we are unclear as to the extent of impact on Takoma Park. The Mayor and various staff have been contacted by a number of media representatives today. Information about our Sanctuary City status is on our website.

#### **Update on Takoma Park/Eastern Avenue Water and Sewer Alignment Project**

We received an update last week from WSSC on the [Eastern Avenue Water and Sewer alignment project](#), which has been forwarded to the Tree Commission for their information. The report included in the following information:

WSSC is currently deciding on the sewer installation method for this priority project. The Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) trenchless method and the open-cut replacement method are the remaining solutions under consideration. WSSC is no longer considering the jack-and-bore method due to the constructability conflict of installing house service connections through a steel casing pipe to the new sewer main. The jack-and-bore method involves installation of a larger-diameter steel casing pipe, followed by installation of the sewer main within the steel casing. Following engineering best practices, the jack-and-bore method is used only along sections of water or sewer main where there are not service connections.

The update also includes an anticipated project timeline (below), and notes that the completion date for draft plans and easement appraisals is dependent on the selected construction method.



### **Philadelphia Avenue Residents Meeting**

On January 18th, Councilmembers Kovar met with Ward 1 residents to learn more about their concerns for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists who use Philadelphia Avenue. Included in the discussion was a presentation of series of recommendations developed by the group which included an analysis of traffic conditions along the corridor, various infrastructure improvements and the possible designation of Philadelphia Avenue as a [SHA Bike and Pedestrian Priority Area](#) (BPPA). The objective of the BPPA program is to enhance safe bicycle and pedestrian access to support cohesive neighborhoods, aging infrastructure, and improve long range connectivity and circulation.

Staff have confirmed that Takoma Park is included within [Montgomery County Bike and Pedestrian Priority Area](#). The County is currently focusing on five targeted areas, including improvements in the Silver Spring Central Business District along a portion of Philadelphia and Fenton Avenues and the Metropolitan Branch Trail, just outside of Takoma Park. They are about to undertake studies of three new project areas for purposes of identifying potential projects, including the Long Branch neighborhood and the Takoma / Langley Crossroads area. Their first public meeting on the Takoma/Langley Crossroads project has been scheduled for February 21 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will be held at the New Hampshire Estates Elementary School (8720 Carroll Ave).

### **Public Art Opportunities**

Staff is preparing to solicit proposals for a number of public art projects for installation later this year and would welcome suggestions from the Council and the community on sites that should be considered. Possible projects include mosaics, murals, sculptures, multi-media installations and more. If you have any suggestions on where art might be a good fit within your ward, please let us know: [arts@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:arts@takomaparkmd.gov).

### **New Police Department Staff**

On Thursday, the Police Department will welcome our two newest police officers upon their graduation from the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy. They have completed an exhaustive 28 week training program. Upon graduation, they will attend a week long SERT (civil disturbance) training before reporting to field training. The field training program is a 14 week program where they will learn to apply the academic skills in real world situations before they are allowed to patrol on their own.

We are also happy to welcome four new Cadets. Three of them began their Academy training last week and are scheduled to graduate in July. The fourth will be working on various assignments in the Police Department until the next Academy session begins this summer. Especially in light of the recent Council Retreat discussions about advancing racial equity, we are pleased to report that four of the six of the new staff are people of color. We continue to urge highly capable women and men of all ethnicities to consider a career with the Takoma Park Police Department.

## **Budget Development Progress**

Preparation of the City's budget is underway, with a current emphasis on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and major technology infrastructure. We have changed our development process to compile this information first before focusing on the proposed operating budget. We believe this will help make the budget crunch time a little less stressful for staff, although there is always some adjustment of the CIP elements before the proposed budget document is finalized.

Kudos go to Susan Cheung, Alisa Trammell and Daryl Braithwaite for their work on the CIP. Kudos also go to Daryl Braithwaite, Jason Damweber, Alan Goldberg and Richard Bowers for their work on the refinement of the Vehicle Replacement Policy. And, kudos go to Jason Damweber and the Technology Steering Committee for their work on the Technology Investment process. The systemization of these major elements means that new proposals are carefully vetted and ongoing expenditures are reviewed so that the proposals included in the budget clearly advance the City's interests while costs and risks are minimized.

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