



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of June 5, 2019

Information to Share

Small Cell Administrative Regulations - Process

With a presentation, Public Hearing, and Work Session occurring over the next two Council meetings, we wanted to remind people about the schedule and process to date and moving forward:

1. The draft Administrative Regulations were posted April 30, 2019 with notice provided in a news post on the home page of the City's website and in the May Newsletter.
2. On June 12, the draft Administrative Regulations will be presented by Mark Del Bianco, the consulting attorney who worked with City staff to develop the regulations. There will also be Public Hearing that evening on the matter.
3. On June 19, the Council will hold a Work Session to discuss the Administrative Regulations, ask any remaining questions of Mr. Del Bianco, and provide feedback to staff.
4. After June 19, the Administrative Regulations will be revised as appropriate based on public comments received and Council guidance, finalized, and approved by the City Manager.
5. Notice of the final Administrative Regulations will be provided in the July Newsletter.
6. July 15 effective date

Additional information is available on the City's project page:

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/small-cell-antennas-in-the-citys-rights-of-way/>

Montgomery County Dockless E-Bike and E-Scooter Pilot Underway

The Montgomery County e-bike and e-scooter pilot began on June 1 (we would have included this note in the City Manager comments from the May 22 meeting, but did not learn of the start date until after that meeting). We will assist in getting the word out through our channels about the pilot and educating residents on safe and appropriate use. The press release from the County was issued last Wednesday:

https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=23155.

More information on the pilot can be found on the County's project

page: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dir/commuter/index.html>.

Dockless Bikeshare and Scooter Workshop Recap

Staff attended the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Dockless Bike and Scooter Share Workshop on May 30, 2019 to learn about and discuss upcoming changes, challenges, and opportunities. Several jurisdictions highlighted their pilot programs and new initiatives including the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, MD, Arlington County, VA, and Baltimore City, MD. Sandra Brecher of MCDOT talked about the history of the Dockless Vehicle Program and announced the County's new pilot (noted above).

Update on Silver Spring Intermediate Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan

On May 29th, Montgomery Parks held the third community meeting to discuss the Silver Spring Intermediate Neighborhood Park Improvement plan. The park is located at 7801 Chicago Avenue, bordered by Philadelphia Avenue to the south and Boston Avenue. The park is

surrounded on three sides by single family homes and on the fourth side by Montgomery College's Takoma Park Campus. The goal of this project is to enhance access to the park and connections between park amenities, improve the existing athletic fields and address ongoing drainage issues. Existing amenities within the park will remain. Potential new amenities may include a shade structure, viewing area for the fields and additional walkway connections.

After extensive community outreach, including three opportunities for online comments at Open Town Hall Forum, staff presented the refined version for community input. The plan is to present to the Planning Board on July 18. For more information, please check the project webpage: <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/silver-spring-intermediate-neighborhood-park-improvement-plan/>

Design Meetings for Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building

Montgomery College has invited members of the public to join their architect/design partners for their next design charrette, where attendees will see proposed refinements to the exterior design of the new Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus and get updates on the project timeline.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18 at 7:00pm at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD. Further details will be available on the College's project page: <http://mcblogs.montgomerycollege.edu/tpss-math-science-building/leggett-building-design-progress-and-upcoming-charrette/>

Purple Line CAT Meeting Recap

City Staff attended the fourth Community Advisory Team Meeting for the Purple Line held on Wednesday, May 29th. The meeting included a discussion about construction progress and updates, business outreach, station artwork, and pedestrian safety for the University Boulevard stations of the Purple Line (Takoma-Langley, Riggs Road, and Adelphi Road). It is estimated that Purple Line design is 85% complete and construction is 15% complete. MTA's goal is for service to begin late 2022.

Over the past six months, overhead and underground utility relocation were conducted along with demolition, grading and paving of the medians where the light rail will run. In the next six months, continued utility relocation will occur between Piney Branch Road and Adelphi Road along with installation of storm drainage. There will be traffic signal reconstruction at University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue, 23rd Avenue, and Campus Drive. Beginning summer 2019, traffic will be shifted to the southern side of University Boulevard East for Phase I construction of the NW Branch Bridge. Phase I is expected to last one year.

The Purple Line recently updated its website in April 2019 with new factsheets, landscape plans, and FAQs. Residents can sign up for updates and construction notifications via email or text at <https://purplelinemd.com/>. Construction concerns can be directed to outreach@pltcllc.com and general questions can be directed to outreach@purplelinemd.com.

MD Bikeways Grant Application

The City will be submitting a MD Bikeways grant application for complete design documents to continue work on the [New Ave Bikeway](#). The project aims to convert the service lane on the southbound side of New Hampshire Avenue from Poplar Avenue to University Boulevard to a two way separated bikeway. The City has previously received funding for preliminary design work from both MD Bikeways and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on portions of the bikeway. The current grant will fund complete design work for the entire New Ave Bikeway and develop documents for the bikeway's eventual construction. MD Bikeways requires

a 20% match of funds from the City. The estimated total for final design documents is \$725,000 which would require a City match of \$145,000. Grant awards will be announced in Fall 2019.

Kudos

Kudos to **Karen MacPherson**, the Library's Children and Young Adult Manager, for yet another article published in the Washington Post. "[Yes, Parents, there is a magic formula to keep your kids reading through the summer](#)" was published online on May 23 and was in the printed WaPo on Sunday, June 2. The article provides strategies on steps parents and caregivers (who are "the secret ingredient" in the magic formula) can take to help kids keep reading during the summer while school is not in session. Great work and recognition, Karen!

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions including Human Resources Director, Mechanic, Recreation Program Leader, Planning Intern, HR Intern, Sr. Accounting Assistant, and Police Officer-Lateral.