



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Join Us -- Special Meeting

Thurs. February 28, 2008
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.,
(registration begins at
7:10)

NOTE LOCATION:
Silver Spring
International Middle
School (SSIMS)

AGENDA -SOECA Debate and Vote on Purple Line

Business Meeting:
Approval of the Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Announcements
Old Business: Reports
New Business

Adjourn by 9:30 p.m.

OFFICERS

President: Mark Gabriele

Vice President:
Kathleen Samiy

Secretary:
Ann Johnson

Treasurer:
Bill Kaupert

Future SOECA Meeting Dates

Thursday, April 3, 2008
Thursday, May 15, 2008

*****IMPORTANT INFORMATION***
ALL HOUSEHOLDS - PLEASE READ!**

****Special Meeting Debate and Vote****

SOECA is voting on 3 resolutions regarding the Proposed Purple Line (PL) and Wayne alignment through our SOECA neighborhood. We need your input to make collective and fair decisions about SOECA's position on this important transportation issue. Please come and cast your ballot:

When: February 28, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.;
(doors open at 7:10 p.m. for membership check in)

**Where: Silver Spring International Middle
School (SSIMS)** *(enter/parking off Wayne Ave)*

SOECA members will review, discuss and then vote on three submitted resolutions. Meeting procedures are provided on page 2. The three resolutions are summarized on pages 2-4 for your review. Full copies are available on SOECA's NEW WEBSITE:

**SOECA launched its new website to
facilitate access to the association's news
and information**

Visit www.soeca.org

*Community Issues, Newsletters, Bylaws, Meeting
Information, and much more!*

Meeting Minutes: January 17, 2008

Program: Mark Gabriele introduced guest speakers from Maryland Transportation Authority (MTA) and reviewed the meeting ground rules. MTA Project Manager, Mike Madden, and Project team members presented an update on the Purple Line (PL), specifically as it relates to downtown Silver Spring and SOECA. SOECA Task Force members compiled a list of questions and areas of concern for discussion with MTA. These questions focused on envisioning the PL at grade on Wayne and requesting more information on SOECA resolution requests (i.e., studying the tunnel option, traffic estimates/projections, and travel times). These questions were forwarded to MTA prior to the meeting.

MTA's presentation addressed many of SOECA's questions. Topics covered included; project overview and goals; alternatives; ridership, costs, and travel times; PL benefits, challenges, alignments, typical sections, possible station locations, visuals, and traffic specific to Silver Spring); public outreach; and project schedule. Mr. Madden emphasized the project goals as important and real, not just words, particularly noting improving east-west travel and the need to serve transit dependent populations. Eight PL alternatives include Alt. 1) No Build; Alt. 2) TSM Baseline; Alt. 3-5) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – low, medium, and high investment; and Alt. 6-8) Light Rail Transit (LRT) – low, medium, and high investment. Preliminary ridership and cost estimates were presented but will likely change (i.e., students were not included in these estimates).

Stated benefits for Silver Spring include viable option to improve east-west travel; Business District continues to grow as area is major employment and activity center; will help transit dependent populations and reduce need for auto access/traffic. Despite benefits there are challenges and significant community concerns. MTA is currently conducting additional studies, modifying alternatives/alignments/stations in response to concerns and to better serve community. MTA is evaluating additional tunneling options and stations at Dale Dr. and Manchester. Options under study may involve stations on both sides of Wayne Avenue.

The MTA-RK&K report submitted to SOECA on Dec 17, 2007 was based on traffic study results taken in 2005 (prior to development of Ellsworth Drive) These studies were used as traffic baselines, to project future traffic congestion and intersection ratings for 2030. MTA is conducting further traffic studies in the near future that will indicate current traffic levels, and will better address the SOECA resolution to requesting a comprehensive study of traffic including spillover and through traffic, in and around SOECA streets. Cut-through traffic on the side streets is a major community concern. MTA is coordinating with Montgomery County and local communities to address traffic questions and concerns.

MTA concluded its presentation with discussion of the project's schedule. Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Alternatives Analysis is due in May 2008; Public Hearing in June, with PL decisions made June – September 2008; and construction would be expected to start in Spring 2012 and continue through Summer 2015.

Mark Gabriel then asked several questions from the prepared list that were not addressed in the presentation and discussion. Additional questions were then taken. One question dealt with quality of life issues for residents living on Wayne Avenue. Mr. Madden indicated that there is no methodology in the study and models to take quality of life issues into account. There was a request to get traffic counts on Wayne Ave near parking garage and Whole Foods. MTA will try to get information back to the community in March 2008.

Business Meeting

Minutes: The minutes for December 6, 2007 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report for 01/17/08: Checking account balance of \$5231.70; certificate of deposit balance of \$2,117.08 as of December 31, 2007.

Please submit your dues as soon as possible to Bill Kaupert in advance of the February 28th meeting and PL vote. He may be reached at 301-585-3385 with any questions about membership.

New Business/Announcements/Discussion:

No new business.

Announcements.

- *Motion to have February 28th meeting at a larger venue. Motion approved and meeting location will be posted on Listserve and community signs.*

Meeting adjourned at 09:45 p.m.

SOECA Neighborhood Signs

Community information signs and boxes have been placed around SOECA to encourage residents to sign-up for SOECA's Listserve. The listserve is a great way to keep up with what's going on and an excellent way to "get the word out" on important community issues, like the proposed Purple Line. SOECA sponsored flyers and information will also be available in these boxes. The signs/boxes are presently located at:

- On Pershing by Springvale Terrace
- At the dead-end of Woodside in the little park
- On Worth at the dead end near Franklin
- On Greenbrier a block south of the dead-end at the park
- At the dead end of Ellsworth also near the park.

Thanks to Liz Brent for suggesting and coordinating this effort!!

NEWS UPDATE: Dale Drive and Colesville Road Intersection - Proposed Improvements

A Public Meeting to discuss the widening on the north and south sides of Coleville Road (in SOECA and Woodside) for additional Dale Drive turning lanes was postponed due to inclement weather and has been rescheduled for:

DATE: Monday, February 25, 2008 ---- TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Oakview Elementary School, 400 East Wayne Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901

This is a Workshop format with 35% complete design drawings. Various DPWT officials will be available to answer design and traffic-related questions. For more information or to provide comments, contact: **Rebecca S. Park**, P.E. Project Manager, Department of Public Works and Transportation Division of Capitol Development
Phone (240) 777-7263 – email: rebecca.park@montgomerycountymd.gov

SOECA PL Resolutions and Voting Process

Visit www.soeca.org for more information on meeting procedures and detailed resolutions. Meeting will be for presentation and debate on the three motions.

Meeting Procedures and Ground Rules:

Who May Vote:

2 votes maximum per household; must be 18 years of age or older, must be present at the meeting to vote. Must live within the SOECA boundaries to vote. Annual membership dues must be paid in full by check, and must be sent with registration form by February 21, 2008. Registration forms found at: www.soeca.org.

Membership Registration: New members are urged to mail registration before Feb. 21 to: Treasurer, Bill Kaupert 9222 Manchester Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901 or call 301-585-3385 to insure membership is paid in full. After Feb. 21 new members must pay at the door (\$10 per household / \$5 for singles or senior citizens). New member registration will be taken at the door—from 7:10-7:30 pm. New membership closes when the official meeting begins at 7:40 pm.

Registration Sign-In at the Meeting, 7:10—7:30 pm: All members must register at the door, and sign in to get voting ballots. *Come early, NO ballots will be given out after the official meeting begins at 7:40 pm.*

Speaker Sign-In Sheet. There will be 3 sign-up sheets, one for each motion, at the registration desk. If you wish to speak on a Motion, you must sign up for each motion. Speakers will be called in order as listed on sign-in sheet. Speakers will have 1 minute each, and must give full name and street where they reside.

Motions and Supporting Resolutions: The full text of the three resolutions are printed below, and are posted online at www.soeca.org.. Copies of each motion will also be made available at the Feb 28 meeting.

Official Meeting Called to Order: At 7:40 pm SOECA’s president will call the meeting to order. Come early to register and get your ballots.

Meeting Agenda and Process:

- 7:40 – 7:50 pm SOECA regular business meeting / Introductory Comments by SOECA President –
- 7:50 – 8:50 pm Each Motion, one at a time, will be called to the floor and then debated.
 - o Originator of each Motion will make an introductory 2 minute statement
 - o Speakers, in order of sign-up sheet, will be given 1 minute to comment/debate.
 - o When the sign-in list of speakers is completed, the next motion will be called.
 - o Then the next Motion will be open to comment / debate, in similar order.
 - o Additional comments may be taken from the floor, at SOECA president’s discretion.
- 8:50 pm Purple Line vote will be taken, then ballots will be counted.

Please attend the meeting and vote on these important issues.
Remember, only registered SOECA members can vote.

SOECA RESOLUTIONS ON THE PROPOSED PURPLE LINE THROUGH SILVER SPRING

RESOLUTION #1

SOECA resolution in favor of a community-friendly Purple Line

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. SOECA supports early construction of the Purple Line subject to the conditions set forth in the following numbered paragraphs;
2. If the MTA determines that tunneling under Wayne Avenue to near Mansfield Road is potentially cost-effective and would not have other disqualifying shortcomings, then this option should be studied with care and presented in detail to interested stakeholders, including SOECA, for further discussion and consideration at a later time (because, to date, SOECA has not had the opportunity to be briefed on the potential advantages and disadvantages of this option);
3. If the Purple Line is built along Wayne Avenue at street level, it should include the following comprehensive package of features, which will require active coordination between MTA and various entities of the Montgomery County government:

Neighborhood Traffic Control: A multi-element plan to protect against the worsening of congestion along Wayne Avenue and to minimize cut-through traffic on other streets in the SOECA neighborhood; this should incorporate such features as traffic restrictions and/or traffic calming on all SOECA streets that would be affected (including Sligo Creek Parkway, Cedar, Spring, Dale, Bonifant, and other side streets), shared traffic lanes for transit vehicles and autos as appropriate along Wayne Avenue;

Streetscape: Safe and attractive design for all stops, street lighting, overhead wires, crosswalks, and sidewalks, and high-quality post-construction landscaping along Wayne Avenue and Bonifant Street; this design should make the community and streets more attractive and pedestrian-friendly after the Purple Line is built and operating than they are today; the Purple Line vehicles should operate quietly;

Parking: An effective plan to protect or enhance parking for residents and their visitors, and for schools, churches, and other neighborhood institutions along Wayne Avenue;

School Parking and Drop-offs: Provision for the re-design and reconstruction of entrances and exits for the parking lots at SSIMS and at Sligo Creek Elementary School;

Athletic Field: Replacement of the parking adjacent to the SSIMS athletic field, which will be lost due to the Purple Line and, further, a thorough re-design and reconstruction of the athletic field;

Sligo Creek: A comprehensive plan to protect Sligo Creek Park, including trees and habitat affected by the Purple Line, and prevention of runoff into the Creek from streets adjacent to the Purple Line.

4. To ensure that the Purple Line brings benefits to our community and that any negative impacts on SOECA are mitigated or eliminated, an effective, inclusive planning process must be established:
 - This process should (a) begin work this spring, (b) secure broad community input – from SOECA members and other relevant stakeholders, and (c) also involve all the relevant government entities – MTA, other relevant elements of the government of the State of Maryland, and all relevant county and regional government organizations;
 - Particular care must be exercised to secure community buy-in on such issues as: a possible tunnel routing to near Mansfield Road (if such a routing is feasible); a stop near the corner of Wayne and Dale; the placement of the hiker-biker Green Trail; placement of new neighborhood sidewalks to facilitate access to the Purple Line; and new neighborhood traffic control measures.

RESOLUTION #2.
**SOECA Resolution in Support of a Sensible Mass Transit Solution
for Silver Spring
(a Purple Line that is not built at street-level on Wayne Avenue)**

RESOLVED: Seven Oaks-Evanswood Citizens Association (SOECA) supports a Purple Line that follows a wisely-designed route through Silver Spring. However, SOECA strongly opposes the building of a street-level Purple Line on Wayne Avenue through Silver Spring due to the significantly adverse impact a street-level route will have on traffic, the neighborhoods, and downtown Silver Spring.

SOECA urges all State and County public officials to support the construction of a Purple Line underground through residential Silver Spring. A tunnel will benefit Silver Spring by providing a true rapid, mass-transit solution to our traffic problems rather than a slow-moving trolley through Silver Spring. A tunnel avoids the traffic gridlock and other irreversible harm that will result from a street-level route on the only residential street in the Purple Line's 16-mile route.

And be it further resolved that: SOECA and its officers will take all actions necessary to make known to State and County public officials the above positions and to further the goals of this Resolution.

BECAUSE: We are a community that values its greenness, its nearness to parks and a revitalized city center, our proximity to Metro, our support of mass transit, and our concern for the troubling consequences of climate change. Our community has a main street – Wayne Avenue – that is residential and yet serves as a major entry for the residents and those of nearby neighborhoods into the city center – a main street that is home to many families, three schools, two churches, an athletic field, and an assisted living facility.

We are a community that uses mass transit and will support a Purple Line which is compatible with the community and furthers our County's and State's goal in finding effective solutions to our pressing traffic problems, rather than an ill-designed project in Silver Spring that actually worsens them. We are a community that believes that an effective Purple Line route can be built through residential Silver Spring that is not constructed at street level and that can provide rapid transit through the community.

We are a community that believes that the planners and elected officials need to understand that the problems of constructing a Purple Line through Silver Spring are unique to the entire route. We are a community concerned that a cheap and short-sighted solution for a rail alignment through Silver Spring will create severely adverse impacts that no amount of "mitigation" can significantly alleviate, and that slow street-level rail on Wayne will not produce a first-class transit system.

We are a community that believes that Wayne Avenue should be beautified and that this can be accomplished without converting Wayne Avenue into a street-level rail route, widening Wayne Avenue at many points, worsening traffic on Wayne and cross- and side-streets, and aggravating access into and through downtown Silver Spring.

Our community prides itself on patience, open dialogue, and a trust that public officials will treat our concerns with respect. And we remain prepared to discuss with planners and officials a route that works for all of Silver Spring, improves the entire Purple Line, and truly assists and does not detract from our community's vision.

RESOLUTION #3. No Purple Line through SOECA at Grade or in Tunnel

Whereas: there has been no sufficiently convincing case made to demonstrate that construction of a Purple Line extending eastward from the Silver Spring transit center through SOECA boundaries would provide benefits to our community that would outweigh the significant costs of constructing and operating the Purple Line through our residential neighborhood;

Resolved: SOECA will oppose the construction of the proposed Purple Line routed through the boundaries of SOECA.

HOW TO JOIN SOECA'S LISTSERV:

There are two ways to join the SOECA Listserv:

(1) **Via email**

- Send an e-mail to: soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.
- The ListServe moderator will email you asking for your name and address by response email and after this email exchange, the moderator will add you to the list-serve.
- You will then receive a confirmation e-mail from "Yahoo Groups" of your addition to the list-serve

(2) **Via Yahoo Groups** at <http://groups.yahoo.com/> (if you already have, or will set up, a free yahoo id)

- Find SOECA and click "Join this Group."
- Fill in the form, including the email address you wish to use, adding a comment about yourself and why you would like to join the group, and click "Join" at the bottom.
- The ListServe moderator will email you asking for your name and address by a personal response email and after this email exchange, the moderator will add you to the list-serve.
- You will then receive a confirmation e-mail from "Yahoo Groups" of your addition to the list-serve

You can post a message to the community by sending an e-mail to: soeca@egroups.com or soeca@yahoogroups.com (Note that it can sometimes take several minutes for your post to be visible so please wait before sending the message again thinking it didn't get through.)

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SOECA BOUNDARIES?

Have you wondered what streets/neighborhoods make up SOECA?

If you live between or on these streets you're in the Seven Oaks – Evanswood Citizens Association.

- Cedar Street to Franklin Avenue
- Colesville Road to Bonifant Street
- Three Oaks Drive (Westside) to Colesville Road
- Carolina Avenue to Colesville Road
- And, of course, you can always look at the SOECA boundary map on at www.soeca.org !

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SOECA

Send this slip plus \$10 annual household dues (\$5 for senior citizens and single members) to: Bill Kaupert, SOECA Treasurer, 9222 Manchester Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Yes No <i>(please circle one)</i>
