



# SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

## Join Us --

Thursday, February 26th,  
2009  
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.,

LOCATION: Silver  
Spring Branch,  
Montgomery County  
Public Library

### AGENDA

Dale Drive Traffic  
Calming  
Pedestrian Safety  
Purple Line Update

### 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  
301-565-3395

Vice Presidents:  
Kathleen Samiy  
Jonathan Jay

Secretary:  
Jean Cavanaugh

Treasurer: Bill Kaupert  
301-585-3385

## \*\*\* February Meeting Program \*\*\*

**Dale Drive Traffic Management:  
Proposed Traffic Calming**  
A presentation on the issue by  
Montgomery County traffic engineers

**Plus a few updates on SOECA  
Business regarding these topics:**

- Pedestrian Safety Initiative
- Purple Line Update
- Dale Drive / Colesville  
Intersection Widening Update

**When: Thursday, February 26th, at 7:30 p.m.**

*Upcoming meetings:* April 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>

**SOECA has a website to facilitate access  
to the association's news and information**

Visit [www.soeca.org](http://www.soeca.org)

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

## SOECA Meeting Minutes: January 15, 2009

**Program:** Meeting was called to order by Mark Gabriele at 7:42 PM.

**Public Safety Update:** Kathleen Samly described a recent PREZCO meeting focused on County Council Bill 3508. The bill was written to pool speed camera funds on behalf of pedestrian safety initiatives within the county, to ameliorate some of the more dangerous “hot spots”. An attempt to divert some of the funds for use by emergency medical services resulted in PREZCO and many of the civic associations affiliated with PREZCO voicing opposition to the bill.

Another bill, 2508, was written to establish a fee system for emergency medical services within the county. At the PREZCO meeting, a letter to be written from the organization was discussed that would oppose parceling out of dedicated source money and instead support sole use. Valerie Ervin, a co-sponsor of Bill 3508, has indicated concern over the possibility of parceling out traffic money.

Concerning the particulars of Bill 2508, fees would be waived for those emergency medical service users lacking insurance. Volunteer firefighters are opposed to the fee system, given that their services are offered free of charge.

It is estimated that a fee for emergency medical services would result in anywhere from 14 to 18 million dollars collected, while the speed cameras will collect about 6 million.

Mark Gabriele suggested he could write two separate letters from SOECA to PREZCO, requesting that money be distributed based upon need, not on the basis of location. There were no objections to this.

**Dale Drive/Colesville Road Intersection:** Despite considerable emphasis from the county about reconstruction of both the east and west sides of the Dale Drive/Colesville Road intersection, the county has now announced it will rework just the east side. This would include widening the road and constructing a high retaining wall adjacent to Mrs. K’s Toll House property. Charles Vest represented SOECA at a county Planning Board hearing on January 13<sup>th</sup>. The cost estimate for the intersection change on the east side is \$2.7 million. Service truck deliveries for Mrs. K’s Toll House would access the restaurant via Kingsbury Road.

Charles said that the new left turn signal at Dale and Colesville on the west side was a state project. Woodside Park residents attending the Planning Board hearing expressed their satisfaction with this change since it has resolved many intersection problems and has cost about \$10,000. They also came to the meeting to support SOECA, voicing concern that road widening and a retaining wall would be detrimental to the community. The owner of Mrs. K’s Toll House said that the proposed retaining wall would be unsightly.

Colesville Road is a state road; Dale Drive is county. The road people at the meeting wanted nothing done that would impede the swift movement of Colesville Road traffic and refused to acknowledge that a right turn signal on the east side could work.

Letters regarding this issue can be sent within the next two weeks to a fax number, which Charles gave. Charles had not been able to get the name of an official to whom such a letter would be addressed. Mark Gabriele will post names and addresses of letter recipients on the list serve and will speak to state level people about this issue.

**Purple Line:** Mark Gabriele and Jonathan Jay reported on the Planning Board’s decision on the routing of the Purple Line. The Planning Board received testimony from the public on January 8<sup>th</sup>. SOECA gave testimony urging that light rail be tunneled under Wayne Avenue, consistent with SOECA’s position adopted last year. Other residents testified on both sides of the issue. The Planning Board made its decision earlier in the day on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board has endorsed the light rail mode for the Purple Line and what is referred to as the medium-investment alternative between Bethesda and New Carrollton. The Planning Board recognized that a surface route vs. a tunneled route through the downtown and along Wayne Avenue was a major issue that needed to be resolved, but decided in favor of the surface route as part of the “Locally Preferred Alternative” that the County Executive and Council and Governor would decide on and forward to the Federal Transit

Administration for funding. However, the Planning Board voted that there be a detailed study of tunneling from the Silver Spring Transit Center (Metro) to Wayne Avenue and Mansfield Road. The primary reason the Planning Board gave for a surface route through the downtown and, consequently, along Wayne Avenue, is to have a stop, which would need to be above-ground, at the new Silver Spring Library at Fenton and Bonifant, and that such a stop was necessary so as to foster development of Fenton Village (between Wayne Avenue and Philadelphia Avenue and between Georgia Avenue and Fenton Street). SOECA, in testimony, disagreed with this reasoning. SOECA had also stressed that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) had released data indicating that tunneling under the downtown and Wayne Avenue could be part of a hybrid alternative with medium-investment light rail in such a way as to be cost effective for purposes of qualifying for federal funding, increase ridership, and be within a very reasonable cost. SOECA had also asked the Planning Board to recommend that the County and State forward both the surface and tunneled possibilities for Silver Spring as part of the Locally Preferred Alternative, a possibility that MTA had indicated was permissible. This would have permitted both the surface and tunneled routes for this portion of Silver Spring to be considered in sufficient detail in the preliminary engineering phase scheduled to begin in 2009. Merely saying that the tunneled route should continue to be studied, while the surface route goes forward in the Locally Preferred Alternative, would not appear to be a serious or realistic way of keeping the possibility of tunneling alive.

The issue next goes to the County Council for deliberation and decision, County Executive Leggett will make his decision prior to the end of January, and Governor O'Malley is expected to make his decision on the Locally Preferred Alternative by the end of March.

MTA has said that construction could be begin as early as late 2012, assuming there will be federal and state funding. Construction duration is likely to be anywhere from 3 to 5 years.

Mark said the Planning Board's decision is not a death knell. In his view, the models for the Purple Line make very little sense, there are numerous issues with a surface route, and having an alternative such as tunneling as another way to handle the Line is a good idea.

Kathleen Samiy said there has been very little discussion about carbon emissions, and that MTA's study showed that light rail would actually result in slight increases in emissions.

Letters to Council members requesting further study of a tunnel option are encouraged from SOECA members.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with no corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balance: \$5,444.72. Certificate of Deposit: \$2,209.29.

**Announcements:** Jonathan Jay said that PREZCO, along with the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board and other community organizations, will sponsor a Silver Spring crime prevention summit, probably in May, due to concerns about an uptick in incidents in crime over the last year in most of the inside-the-Beltway communities in Silver Spring. The idea for a summit came from SOECA, and SOECA is looking for a member to represent our association in the planning of the summit.

**New Business:** A listserv discussion has been taking place in response to a recent eviction from Colesville Towers. Belongings were recently strewn on the sidewalk abutting Ellsworth Drive. If members view this as an important topic for the association, a panel discussion could be planned for an upcoming SOECA meeting. It was agreed that more information is vital for members to be better informed. Topics that could be addressed include what office within county government is responsible for landlord/tenant relations, what provisions the county makes for evictions in terms of timeline and the removal of property, and the rights of tenants and landlords. It was proposed that instead of writing the county about a broad solution to the more general issue of tenant evictions, representatives of SOECA, including the nearby neighborhood, approach the management of Colesville Towers in an attempt to resolve the more specific issue of evicted tenants' possessions on the sidewalk and street.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Minutes submitted by Carol Leventhal

## SOECA'S NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

There have been numerous reports on the SOECA Listserv and those in surrounding neighborhoods of people breaking into cars, particularly late at night. **In the event you see something suspicious, please call the Montgomery Police non-emergency line at (301) 279-8000.**

And since you're thinking that it's a good idea to do that, the Board would like to suggest that you consider participating in SOECA's neighborhood watch program. Please volunteer as a Watch Captain, and help keep our neighborhood safe. For more info, contact Scott Lasensky at 301-920-2205, or via email to [slasensky@gmail.com](mailto:slasensky@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:soeca@egroups.com) or [soeca@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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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### 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    *(please circle one)*