



*Transportation Commission Meeting*

**January 17, 2023**

**7:00PM**

**City Council Workroom - City Hall  
301 King Street**

**AGENDA**

1. Public Comment (Not to exceed 10 min)
2. Minutes of the November 15, 2023 meeting
3. **Discussion Item:** Trails Maintenance and Planning - RPCA
4. **Public Hearing and Action Item:** RAISE Grant Application
5. **Public Hearing and Action Item:** DRPT Grants
6. **Public Hearing and Action Item:** MWCOG Grants
7. **Discussion Item:** DRAFT 2024 Workplan
8. Commissioner Updates
9. Items for Consent
  - A. Rainbow Crosswalks
  - B. WMATA Budget
  - C. Duke Street at West Taylor Run Update
  - D. Duke Street Transitway Update
  - E. Eisenhower Avenue Safety Study
  - F. MUTCD Updates
10. Other Business

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*Public hearing items are so noted on the agenda. The Commission may receive public comments on other agenda items at its discretion.*

*Next Meeting: February 21, 2023*

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The January 17 meeting of the Transportation Commission is being held at 7:00 p.m in the City Council Workroom on the second floor of City Hall (301 King Street) and electronically. Members of Transportation Commission and staff are participating either in-person or from a remote location through video conference call on Zoom. The meeting can be accessed in person or via Zoom by registering at the following link:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_hLQfjHtST\\_ihXZP6eTF8XA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hLQfjHtST_ihXZP6eTF8XA)

Or by phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 916 4868 8918

Passcode: 068073

Public comment will be received at the meeting. There will be a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting and written testimony can be provided until 3PM on 1/17/2024 to [christopher.ziemann@alexandriava.gov](mailto:christopher.ziemann@alexandriava.gov).

The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of ADA. An individual with a disability who wishes to request an accommodation may contact the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4083 or TTY/TTD 703-838-5056.



**City of Alexandria**  
Transportation Commission

**Regular Meeting**

November 15, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Melissa McMahon, Vice Chair Matthew McManus, Commissioner James Maslanka, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner Leslie Catherwood (Virtual), Commissioner Tim Lovain, Commissioner Jody Manor (Virtual), Councilman Kirk McPike.

**Staff Present:** Hillary Orr – Deputy Director, Christopher Ziemann – Transportation Planning Division Chief, Josh Schacht – Transportation Engineering Division, Audrey Cunningham – Transportation Engineering Division.

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/TransportationCommission>

[Chair McMahon called the Transportation Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.](#)

**1. Public Comment Period**

**Motion to close public hearing:** Commissioner Lovain

**Second:** Commissioner Kane

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**2. October Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes:** Vice Chair McManus

**Second:** Commissioner Lovain

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**3. DISCUSSION ITEM: Smart Mobility Update**

**ISSUE:** Update on the Smart Mobility Program.

**DISCUSSION:** Josh Schacht, Smart Mobility Program Manager, presented an update on the current and future projects within the Smart Mobility Program. Bringing in new technologies and organizing data, this program creates better orchestrated city-wide traffic patterns to improve trip reliability and increase travel options. It also provides individual travelers with information to make safer and more efficient trips.

**4. Action Item: Consideration of Endorsement of CMAQ/RSTP Grant Application**

**ISSUE:** Consideration of the endorsement of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)/ Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) grant application

**RECOMMENATION:** That Transportation Commission endorses the FY 2030 CMAQ/RSTP funding request to City Council for an application of up to \$5M.

**DISCUSSION:** Chris Ziemann, Division Chief, presented background on the grant applications and

discussed the proposed projects and timelines. Funding requests are bundled to provide NVTAs maximum flexibility, increasing NVTAs ability to fund more projects. CMAQ funds projects that reduce emissions and improve air quality. RSTP offers more flexible funds for projects that improve or preserve transportation infrastructure.

**Motion to close public hearing:** Commissioner Kane

**Second:** Commissioner Maslanka

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Motion to recommend the Transportation Commission endorse a letter to City Council in support of the 2030 CMAQ/RSTP funding application:** Commissioner Kane

**Second:** Commissioner Maslanka

**Motion carries unanimously.**

## 5. Commissioner updates

**Commissioner Kane** – Traffic and parking board approved the bike lane addition on East Abingdon Drive to connect the alternate Mt. Vernon Trail to the Mt. Vernon Trail. The Boards also approved the addition of parking meters in Potomac Yard and the removal of one of the two left turn lanes on Duke Street and Dulany Street to provide more safety for pedestrians.

**Commissioner Manor** – Recommended Transportation Commission attend council meetings to be informed about conversations on the reduction or elimination of the parking requirements.

**Commissioner McMahon** – Advised Transportation Commission of Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> being World Day of Remembrance for Victims of Traffic Violence. The Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets will be hosting an event at Wakefield High School in honor of a pedestrian killed at an intersection on the edge of Alexandria and Arlington.

**Councilman McPike** – Public hearing on Saturday. Council members will be voting on Feb 28. Discussions of the Legislative Package will begin with the first legislative sub-committee meeting on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> with members invited to attend.

## 6. Items of Consent

- Rainbow Crosswalks
- FY 2025 Budget Letter
- Eisenhower Avenue Study Update
- SRTS Walk Audits Update

## 7. Other Business

- December meeting

**Motion to cancel December meeting:** Commissioner Kane

**Second:** Commissioner Maslanka

**Motion carries unanimously.**

- Discussion topics for 2024

**8. Adjournment**

At 8:41 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.

DRAFT

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 17, 2024

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 – TRAILS MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING

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**ISSUE:** Staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Community Activities to provide update and information to Transportation Commission on the trail maintenance and planning program and activities.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission receive this presentation.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 17, 2024

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 – RAISE GRANT APPLICATION

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**ISSUE:** The City is proposing to apply for the FY 2024 RAISE planning grant.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Transportation Commission endorse a letter to City Council in support of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) FY 2024 RAISE funding application (Attachment 1).

**BACKGROUND:** The USDOT RAISE Planning Grant program is instrumental in funding crucial planning initiatives that align with the city's goals of sustainable development, improved transportation infrastructure, and enhanced community connectivity. The RAISE Planning Grant program provides funding for planning activities that address key challenges and opportunities in transportation infrastructure. The City aims to leverage this opportunity to develop comprehensive plans that enhance mobility, safety, and address the evolving needs of our growing community along Seminary Road between Library Lane and North Beauregard Street.

Numerous intersections along the Seminary Road corridor have been identified for safety enhancements as part of the Vision Zero program, Safe Routes to School Walk Audits, community feedback, and AlexWest planning process. These intersections cannot be addressed in a vacuum and a more holistic assessment of the corridor is needed to determine how the issues might be mitigated and what impact that has on traffic.

**DISCUSSION:** Due to the proximity to the interstate and number of ramps connecting to this segment of Seminary Road, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will be closely involved as a key stakeholder with any study in this area. Additionally, VDOT requires Operational and Safety Analysis Report (OSAR) to accompany any recommended changes that could involve access modifications to highway ramps. Conducting the planning early and in coordination with the state will set the City up for future success and expedited project delivery should recommendations that come out of this planning study come to fruition.

The proposed OSAR study would seek to develop a comprehensive transportation plan that focuses on improving accessibility, reducing congestion, and promoting alternative modes of transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transit. This plan would prioritize the integration of various transportation modes, creating a seamless and interconnected network that enhances the overall mobility and accessibility of the city.

Key recommendations from various City plans and future development would be incorporated into this study. The outcome of the study would be to identify feasible modifications to ramps, lane designation, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access improvements centered around safety and mobility that can be constructed and incorporated into new development plans, a future RAISE or other implementation grant.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Draft Transportation Commission Letter of Support





Alexandria Transportation Commission  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

[www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov)

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council  
City Hall.  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

January 17, 2023

Re: Endorsement of RAISE Grant Application for Safety Improvement along Seminary Road

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its January 17 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the City's application for the RAISE grant program to fund safety improvements along Seminary Road between Library Lane and North Beauregard Street. We enthusiastically support funding for safety and multi-modal transportation projects which have many goals, including helping us achieve Vision Zero by the stated goal of 2028.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon  
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission  
City Manager James F. Parajon  
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES  
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JANUARY 17, 2024  
**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
**FROM:** HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM #5 – DRPT GRANT APPLICATIONS

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**ISSUE:** The City is proposing to apply for the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) FY 2025 Grant Programs.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission:

1. Endorse the attached letter (Attachment 1) in support of the following DRPT grant applications:
  - Up to \$37,000,000 in eligible expenses for State Aid Transit Operating Assistance;
  - Up to \$400,000 for State Aid Capital Assistance;
  - Up to \$350,000 for the Commuter Assistance Program (CAP);
  - Up to \$110,000 for the Public Transportation Workforce Development Program;
  - Up to \$315,000 for the Demonstration Project Assistance Program;
  - Up to \$500,000 for the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP); and

**BACKGROUND:** The City applies annually to the Virginia DRPT for grant funds that support transit operating assistance and capital expenses for DASH, Metro, DOT/Paratransit, and commuter outreach programs. State aid grants reimburse the City for funds spent on transit activities. These funds go directly to the City’s Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) Fund and are used to pay the City’s annual WMATA operating budget.

The City operates a commuter outreach program, known as GO Alex, that provides information, encouragement, and incentives to support Council’s goal of increasing transit ridership and transportation options other than a single-occupant vehicle while still ensuring that residents, workers, and visitors can reach destinations within Alexandria. This strategy is endorsed in the “Mobility Options” chapter of the Alexandria Mobility Plan. In FY 2024, some of these funds were used to promote DASH’s free fares and the all-day network. DASH submits applications annually for the demonstration project assistance and an intern.

Additionally, DRPT recently announced passenger amenities as an eligible expense under the Transit Rider Incentive Program (TRIP). The City responded to a mid-cycle application for interim bus shelters at the West End (formerly Landmark) Transit Center until the full build-out can be implemented.

**DISCUSSION:** The City and DASH plan to submit applications for five DRPT grant programs that will help offset City expenses and provide greater support for DASH. The programs all work toward the City’s goal of supporting multimodal transportation options and reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips to relieve congestion. The summaries below reflect the proposed applications and align with the guidelines and criteria outlined by DRPT for each pot of funding:

*FY 2025 MERIT - State Operating Assistance (State Aid Grant)*

City of Alexandria Transit Operating Assistance - (total eligible expenses - \$37,000,000):

Operating assistance to jurisdictions is allocated based on system size and system performance for both DASH and DOT paratransit. Operating costs have increased over the past few years due to labor and fuel costs. The amount the Commonwealth can provide in operating assistance varies annually but has typically been between 20% and 30%.

*FY 2025 MERIT - Capital Assistance (State Aid Grant)*

Hybrid Spare Parts – (up to \$400,000):

The Capital Assistance Program provides reimbursement to the City for a portion of the money spent on the purchase of transit capital assets. In FY 2025, DASH will purchase hybrid bus batteries and spare parts that will help maintain a safe and reliable fleet by extending the useful life of its hybrid buses. These purchases are eligible for reimbursement, and the funds that come back to the City are used to offset general fund dollars required for transit operational costs, such as WMATA. In previous years, the City has been reimbursed up to 68% for capital purchases, but the number can vary year to year.

*FY 2025 Commuter Assistance Program*

GO Alex – (up to \$350,000):

The Commuter Assistance Program grant provides reimbursement to the City for operating dollars spent on GO Alex programming and staffing. These funds will maintain current staffing and fund future programming such as promoting different transportation options in the City, including DASH, Metro, and Capital Bikeshare. A 20% local match is required.

*FY 2025 Public Transportation Workforce Development Program*

DASH Public Transit Intern – (up to \$110,000):

This grant will allow DASH to continue funding for the Planning Intern program through FY 2025. This grant will fund two interns and allow them to gain valuable experience in the public transportation industry. A 20% local match is required.

*FY 2025 Demonstration Project Assistance Program*

DASH Passenger Information Screen Pilot– (up to \$200,000):

This pilot would allow DASH to install two information screens onboard up to 10 buses that would display upcoming bus stops, transfer connections, service alerts, advertisements, and other customer outreach information. These infotainment screens would enhance overall accessibility and ease of use for DASH riders. DASH would be

one of the first transit agencies in the state to install such screens on their buses and could install the screens on all buses going forward if the pilot is successful. A 20% local match is required, and staff estimates that this support would cost an additional \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually in operating funds.

DASH Thru Vision Blindspot Camera Pilot – (up to \$100,000):

This grant would provide funding to DASH to install a state-of-the-art camera system on up to ten DASH buses that would help bus operators see objects or people who are in the blind spots created by the two front pillars. The screens would be mounted on the pillars to effectively remove these dangerous blind spots for bus operators. This could greatly improve bus and pedestrian safety and would promote ongoing Vision Zero objectives. A 20% local match is required.

*FY 2025 Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP)*

Bus Stop Enhancements – (up to \$500,000)

This grant can be used to fund passenger amenities. As such, this grant would provide funding for upgrades to bus stops, including bus shelters, lighting, benches, bus arrival screens, ADA improvements, and other potential minor concrete work. The City recently updated the bus stop inventory and is in the process of prioritizing stops for improvements based on ridership, need, and equity. The cost of purchasing and installing a new shelter is approximately \$30,000, and the cost of amenities is estimated at between \$5,000 and \$10,000. This amount would improve 12 to 15 bus stops Citywide but could be more depending on individual stop needs. These improvements would enhance safety, comfort, and convenience for transit riders, making the bus a more practical and convenient option to reduce SOV driving. Both the Alexandria Transportation Commission, and the ATC Board of Directors have been requesting that staff seek funding for transit access and amenities over the past few years (Attachment 2). There is a 32% local match for these projects.

If approved by DRPT, funds would require formal adoption by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and incorporation into the state's six-year program in the spring of 2024. Funds would be available on or after July 1, 2024.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Operating and Capital Assistance funds provided by DRPT to jurisdictions do not require a local match, as these are treated as a reimbursement to localities for funds spent on transit. Funding will be allocated by a regional formula depending on which expenditures qualify for reimbursement; as such, the expected award or grant amount is unknown at this time. Based on the funding rates for FY 2024, the city could expect to be awarded approximately \$5 million in operating assistance and \$272,000 in capital assistance.

The estimated local match for the Workforce Development Program and the Demonstration Project Assistance funds would require a \$82,000 local match which would need to be identified in the FY 2025 budget or supplemental appropriation process. If the required local match is not available and DASH cannot determine a local match, the DASH Board of Directors may withdraw, amend the grant applications, or decline to enter into the necessary agreements.

The total local match would require a \$70,000 local match for the Commuter Assistance Program, which would need to be identified in the FY 2025 budget or supplemental appropriation process. If the required local match is not available, the City may withdraw or otherwise amend the grant application.

For the TRIP grant, the total local match would be \$160,000, which could be funded by a combination of sources, including funding received by new developments under the Transportation Management Plan Policy's Go Alex fund, any existing projects with local funding that could act as a match, or Northern Virginia Transportation Authority 30% funding. If the local match could not be identified, the City may withdraw or otherwise amend the grant applications.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Draft Letter of Support



Alexandria Transportation Commission  
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
January 17, 2024

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2025 DRPT Operating and Capital Assistance State Aid Applications, the Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant Applications, and the Transit Rider Incentive Program, and Approval of Required Matching Funds.

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its January 17 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff recommended funded requests through six DRPT grant programs:

**DRPT Operating Assistance**

- Up to \$37 million to offset the City's operating expenses for FY 2024 and provide greater support for DASH

**DRPT Capital Assistance**

- Up to \$400,000 to submit for reimbursement for the purchase and replacement of batteries and powertrain Components for hybrid and electric buses. Reimbursements are typically funded between 60% and 68%.

**Commuter Assistance Program**

- Up to \$350,000 to fund two staff and programming.
  - This requires a \$70,000 local match

**Demonstration Project Assistance Program**

- Up to \$200,000 for a DASH Onboard Passenger Information Screen Pilot
  - This requires a \$40,000 local match
- Up to \$100,000 for a DASH Thru Vision Blindspot Camera Pilot

- This requires a \$20,000 local match

**Public Transportation Workforce Development Program**

- Up to \$110,000 to fund DASH professional development program.
  - This requires a \$22,000 local match

**Transit Rider Incentive Program**

- Up to \$500,000 for bus stop amenities
  - This requires a \$160,000 local match

These requests support goals in the Alexandria Mobility Plan including supporting multimodal transportation and reducing single occupancy vehicle trips. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for the FY 2025 DRPT Grant requests.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission  
City Manager James Parajon  
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES  
Josh Baker, General Manager, DASH  
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director of Transportation, T&ES

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JANUARY 17, 2024

**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM #6 – MWCOG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

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**ISSUE:** The City is proposing applications for two Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) technical assistance grants for FY 2025: one for the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program and one for the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP).

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission endorse a letter to City council in support of the MWCOG technical assistance grant applications.

**BACKGROUND:**

*Transportation Land-Use Connections Program*

MWCOG's TLC Program provides up to \$80,000 in short-term consultant services to local jurisdictions for small planning and preliminary design projects that promote mixed-use, walkable communities, and support a variety of transportation alternatives.

The Alexandria Mobility Plan proposed bicycle network designates Edsall Road as a future "enhanced bicycle facility" and shows connections to planned facilities on South Van Dorn Street and South Pickett Street. In 2023, staff developed a Complete Streets Five-Year Plan (FY 2023-2027) with input from the Transportation Commission, which included a project to implement multimodal improvements on Edsall Road between South Pickett Street and the City boundary.

*Regional Roadway Safety Program*

MWCOG's RRSP provides up to \$80,000 in short-term consultant services for planning or preliminary engineering projects that address roadway safety issues and will lead to a reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes.

In 2017, the City adopted a Vision Zero Policy and Action Plan with the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2028. The City's High Injury Network (HIN) is a collection of corridors where high numbers of people have been killed or severely injured in traffic crashes and includes this segment of Seminary Road. Between 2018 and 2022, 133 crashes occurred on the segment of Seminary Road between North Beauregard Street and the City boundary. These crashes resulted in five severe injuries and two fatalities. Reducing the



frequency and seriousness of crashes on HIN corridors will help the City achieve its Vision Zero goal.

**DISCUSSION:**

*Transportation Land-Use Connections Program*

The City proposes to request technical assistance for the outreach and design of multimodal corridor improvements on Edsall Road between South Pickett Street and the City boundary. This corridor provides access to high-density residential communities, commercial and retail uses, mixed uses, Armistead Boothe Park, and public transportation, including the future West End Transitway. The project would include data collection, analysis, community engagement, and conceptual design planning for corridor improvements on Edsall Road to enhance mobility, access, safety, and comfort for all roadway users.

*Regional Roadway Safety Program*

The City proposes a request for technical assistance to study safety improvements along Seminary Road between North Beauregard Street and the City boundary. The project would include planning and conceptual design for corridor improvements on Seminary Road to enhance safety and comfort for all roadway users, including improvements to intersections, traffic signals, and lane configuration. In 2023, staff worked with the community to better understand concerns along this roadway and implemented some short-term solutions. Data was collected in fall 2023, and further analysis is needed to understand the feasibility of various design options that can improve safety along this corridor.

Both projects support strategies in the Alexandria Mobility Plan and address MWCOG Transportation Planning Board (TPB) priorities. These projects will result in the selection of a preferred design alternatives which could then advance for further design. If funded, the project award would occur in Spring 2024, and projects would last from Fall 2024 to June 2025. Applications are due March 8, 2024.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: DRAFT Endorsement Letter



Alexandria Transportation Commission  
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

January 17, 2024

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2025 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Grant Applications

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its January 17, 2024 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the following staff-recommended technical assistance grant applications to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation and Land Use Connections Program and Regional Roadway Safety Program:

*Transportation and Land Use Connections Program:*

- Up to \$80,000 to perform planning, community engagement, and preliminary design for corridor improvements on Edsall Road between South Pickett Street and the City line

*Regional Roadway Safety Program:*

- Up to \$80,000 to study safety improvements on Seminary Road between North Beauregard Street and the City line

These requests support the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan, the Vision Zero Action Plan, and community concerns brought forth during the AlexWest planning efforts. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for the FY 2025 Transportation and Land Use Connections and Regional Roadway Safety Programs.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahan  
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission  
James Parajon, City Manager  
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES  
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES

DRAFT

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JANUARY 17, 2024  
**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
**FROM:** HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM #7 – DRAFT ANNUAL WORKPLAN

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of the Draft 2024 Workplan.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission receive the Draft 2024 Workplan and provide feedback.

**BACKGROUND:** Every calendar year, staff and the Transportation Commission create a Transportation Commission Workplan to map out anticipated items the Commission will receive throughout the year. This is not necessarily an exhaustive list and items might change. The goal is to allow the Commission to anticipate upcoming topics.

**DISCUSSION:** The Draft 2024 Workplan developed by staff and with input from Commissioners at the November 15 meeting is provided in Attachment 1.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Draft 2024 Transportation Commission Workplan

## 2024 Transportation Commission Work Plan - DRAFT

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
								BREAK				
<b>Transportation Commission</b>												
Retreat												
Chair/Vice Chair Election												
Transportation Long-Range Plan												
Discussion Items	Trails	EVs										
<b>City Planning Studies</b>												
Interdepartmental Long Range Work Plan												
Repaving Update												
West End Transitway												
AlexWest												
Arena Planning												
King -Bradlee Safety & Mobility												
Duke Street In Motion												
<b>Transportation Funding</b>												
FY2022-2031 City Budget												
NVTA 70% Funds												
SMART SCALE												
CMAQ/RSTP Grant												
DRPT Transit Assistance and CAP grants												
RAISE Grant												
Federal/State Grants (as needed)												
Transportation Alternatives Program												
VDOT Revenue Sharing Grant												
Grants Dashboard												
MWCOG Technical Assistance Grants												
<b>Transportation Programs</b>												
Vision Zero Action Plan Implementation												
Complete Streets												
Safe Routes to School												
Trails												
Automated Enforcement Tools												
Alexandria Mobility Plan Implementation												
Capital Bikeshare and Micromobility Update												
Transportation Management Plan (TMP) Update												
Paratransit Program Update												
FY25 Alexandria Transit Strategic Plan (ATSP)												
Smart Mobility / Parking Technologies												
<b>Regional Projects / Plans</b>												
State Legislative Process												
VPRA												
VDOT I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study												
Bus Transformation Project (WMATA)												
Endorsement of Envision Route 7 BRT Strategic Implementation Plan (NVTC)												
King St Bus Study												
WMATA Budget												

Discussion Item	
Action Item	
Consent Item	

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 17, 2024

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #9 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

### **A. Rainbow Crosswalks**

On June 13, 2023, City Council directed staff to explore opportunities to incorporate pride artwork on King Street in response to a request from Councilman McPike. Staff have determined that it is feasible to address these requests. Since the memo was submitted, subsequent discussions with City Council further defined the scope of work by focusing on rainbow art in crosswalks along the 300 block of King Street, adjacent to City Hall. The crosswalks will be located on King Street at Royal and Fairfax Streets. Staff have determined that it is feasible to complete this request prior to June 2024. To meet the federal design guidance for crosswalks as cited in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the high visibility white edge lines must remain.

Staff met with the LGBTQ+ Task Force and members of the Human Rights Commission in October 2023 to get feedback on various rainbow crosswalk designs. The discussion highlighted the process and design options. The group expressed full support for the installation of inclusive rainbow art in the public realm, suggesting that the rainbow include all colors from the Progress Pride flag to represent the full diversity of the LGBTQ+ community. The Pride flag contains red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple and represents the entire LGBTQ+ Community including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex people. The Progress Pride flag also includes black and brown, representing marginalized communities of color, as well as light blue, light pink, and white, which represents transgender and non-binary people.

Staff has begun to research and evaluate various design options, color availability, material durability, and maintenance requirements to determine a final design by the spring. The final

design will incorporate feedback from City Council regarding the materials and colors to be used in these crosswalks.

### **WMATA Budget**

On December 14, WMATA staff presented the General Manager's proposed FY 2025 Budget. This proposed budget is in response to the large operating deficit WMATA faces in FY25. One-time cost savings measures by WMATA have reduced the budget gap from \$750 million to \$433 million. As a large gap still exists, the FY 2025 Budget calls for major service cuts, fare increases, and some station closures.

Major service cuts are proposed for both Metrorail and Metrobus in Alexandria, including the elimination of routes such as the 8W, 11Y, 21C, Metroway, NH2, and reduced service on several routes, including the 7A, 29K and 29N. Fares increases of 20% are proposed, along with the potential closure of low-ridership Metrorail stations (though no staff recommendation has been made on exactly which stations). If additional funding can be provided by Alexandria, its regional partners, and the Commonwealth, there exists the possibility that some of the most severe impacts of the operating budget shortfall can be mitigated.

The WMATA Board will meet on January 11 to work through Board member edits to the GM's proposed budget, before holding a public hearing on the budget on January 25.

### **B. Duke Street at West Taylor Run**

In Fall 2023, staff engaged with local leadership, participated in community hosted meetings, and held a [public meeting](#) to discuss the proposed changes at the Duke Street and West Taylor Run intersection. This outreach effort is the last step in collecting community input to finalize the recommended location of the right-turn lane onto West Taylor Run Parkway and the service road direction/amenities. In addition to the comments received to this point, this feedback will be used to finalize the recommendation for the Duke Street and West Taylor Run project, which is tentatively scheduled for consideration in early 2024 at the [Traffic and Parking Board](#) meeting. Once the concept design has been approved, the project team will move forward with final design and will continue to work with the adjacent communities on future traffic calming measures. To learn more about the project, visit the [project website](#). The community can provide input on the design options via the [feedback form](#), which was open through January 15.

### **C. Duke Street Transitway**

In June 2023, the two-year planning process culminated in [City Council approval of a concept plan](#) for the Duke Street Transitway that included mostly center running lanes. As part of that approval, City Council requested that staff continue to work with the community to develop concepts for the Duke Street service roads in Segment 3, between Cambridge Road and Moncure Drive. Over the course of the fall, staff met with community stakeholders, attended civic association meetings, and hosted a public meeting to provide information on the various options and solicit feedback. For those who were unable to attend one of the scheduled meetings, the community is encouraged to [watch the recorded presentation](#) and [view the slide deck](#) to better understand the proposed options. After

reviewing the materials, the public is encouraged to provide input via the [feedback form](#), which will be live through January 15. The project team will review the feedback and develop preferred options to be considered by the [Traffic and Parking Board](#) later this year.

#### **D. Eisenhower Avenue Safety Study**

The City of Alexandria is entering its second phase with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on the Eisenhower Avenue Transportation Study. During the first phase, the City and VDOT solicited feedback and reviewed traffic conditions, such as safety, volumes, and upcoming developments to help determine focus areas for the project. Phase Two will be focused on soliciting feedback again on the preliminary ideas to improve Eisenhower Avenue.

The focus areas are:

- Van Dorn Street and Eisenhower Avenue intersection
- Metro Road and Eisenhower Avenue intersection
- Road cross-section between Van Dorn Street and Clermont Avenue
- Road cross-section between Clermont Avenue and Telegraph Road
- Transit stop enhancements

For more information about Phase 1 and the focus area, visit [the project website](#). The City and VDOT anticipate the upcoming outreach and preliminary ideas by the end of January 2024 into February 2024.

#### **E. MUTCD Updates**

On December 18<sup>th</sup> 2023, the FHWA released the new edition of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) 11<sup>th</sup> edition, which defines which traffic control devices are permitted to be used in specific contexts. The last update was in 2009 and the new release provides clearer guidance, and more flexibility and options for jurisdictions. Staff is still currently reviewing the revisions, and notable updates include:

- Flexibility on all-way stops/yields
- Color and decorated pavement including spaces designated for art
- Improved guidance on bike facilities, signage, and signals
- More considerations for pedestrian and cycling users
- Traffic control device implementation and warrants including but not limited hybrid beacons, rapid flash beacons, and feedback signs.

Staff are using the new MUTCD and are incorporating it into design and decision processes. It is not expected that previous and ongoing projects will be significantly impacted.