City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

October 7, 2009
7:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 1101

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Jayme Blakesley, Mayor William D. Euille, Donna Fossum, Keith Freihofer, Jesse Jennings, Councilman Rob Krupicka, Sean Kumar, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey

Others Present: Rich Baier, T&ES, Sandra Marks, T&ES, Karen Callaham, T&ES, Bob Garbacz, T&ES, Al Himes, DASH, Yon Lambert, T&ES, Pat Mann, P&Z, Jim Maslanka, T&ES, Karl Moritz, P&Z

1. **Minutes**
   Chairman Kumar asked for edits or comments for the minutes of the September 2, 2009 meeting. There being none, Commissioner Jayme Blakesley made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted and Commissioner Fossum second the motion. The September 2, 2009 minutes were approved 7-0.

2. **SAFTEA-LU Presentation**
   Mr. Baier reported that the $286.4 billion surface transportation authorization, SAFTEA-LU, (Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users), expired September 30. SAFETEA-LU project has been a source of funding for a few City projects over the last six years. The ongoing effort is to gear SAFETEA-LU's goals toward more transit multimodal and environmental initiatives with user fees based on the use of roads. Mr. Baier indicated that literature regarding APWA's position on the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU will be mailed to the Transportation Commissioners. At the November meeting, Commissioners should be prepared to discuss if the group should recommend to City Council to make the reauthorization a part of its legislative package or some parts of the bill and how the funds should be distributed.

3. **CIP Presentation and Discussion**
   Staff Antonio Baxter gave a presentation on the City FY 2011 CIP and operating budget guidelines. Due to the state of the economy, City CIP and operating budgets are stretched and City departments must propose CIP requests under a prioritized 3 tier system for items considered to vital and necessary. For the FY 2011 budget, staff was asked to submit a budget based on $1.6 million in reductions. The FY 2010-2015 CIP programs will be under-funded compared to known requests for funding by more than $125 million. City staff has been advised to move forward on applications for federal and private grants for funding that is available to supplement their City budgets. The City budget retreat is on Nov 7.

DRAFT

4. **Staff Updates**

BRAC-133 - The City is continuing to track this project. 6, 409 full time employees will be working at the BRAC-133 site with 2,300 peak hour trips expected. 40% of the trips will be offset by the TMP. On October 13, the Council will discuss BRAC-133 and the pending lawsuits and other issues. The impact of the project will be large with or without direct access to the facility off I-395. The direct access options include an area north of the proposed facility, south of the Winkler Development and direct access from ramp to and from garage.

HOT Lanes - Councilman Krupicka spoke about the resolution passed by Council in March which resolved to withhold support of this project until more information is revealed. Six months have passed since Council's letter to VDOT asking for input without any reply. The HOT lanes will have a major impact on the Seminary Road intersection compounded by the BRAC redevelopment. The Transportation Commission will decide if they should recommend to Council to craft a more explicit resolution on the HOT lanes. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion that the Commission draft a letter supporting a stronger position to the opposition of the HOT lanes. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Potomac Yard Metrorail - Staff Sandra Marks gave an update on the Metro feasibility of a station in Potomac Yards. Concerns have been the right of way issues and the impact on the National Park Service scenic easements. A location for the station has been narrowed down to 3 locations. There is a quandary of traffic impacting adjacent neighborhoods and citizens who want the closed intersections open along Route 1 opened for easy access to Potomac Yard. A Landbay F community meeting will be held on October 20 at Charles Houston Recreation Center. Final recommendations of the workgroup are expected in November.

Transportation Management Program - TMP has been a requirement of new development in the City that requires monetary contributions and program contributions encouraging non-SOV travel like ridesharing, shuttles to Metro stations, teleworking, etc. Council has asked staff to update the program moving towards a district wide and performance based approach.

Beauregard Corridor - In June, City Council authorized staff to seek grant funding for consulting work on the Beauregard Corridor Plan. The City has chosen to pursue development there because of other development interest in the area responding to the BRAC-133 project. A community meeting is scheduled for October 29**,** at 7:00 P.M. at John Adams Elementary School.

Strategic Plan - Council has developed a new process for its strategic planning initiative. The goal of moving people safely and efficiently is still in place. However, the new process involves a series of public meetings and a blue ribbon stakeholder panel to get input from all commissions. Rich Baier and Yon Lambert are project leaders for Goal 3 – Transportation. As Council redevelops its adjectives and initiatives, the Transportation Commission will be kept informed.

5. **Commission Updates**

CMAQ/RSTP – Chairman Kumar presented the Commission's recommendations to City Council. Vice Mayor Donley stated that depending on funding, Council may ask for the projects to be reprioritized.

Alexandria-Arlington Joint Pedestrian-Bicycle Meeting – The first of such annual meetings occurred to make sure both jurisdictions are in alignment with projects.

DRAFT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Fossum and Commissioner Posey seconded the motion.

DRAFT