

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 1, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 80: REASONS AND COSTS FOR REPAVING WASHINGTON STREET

The condition of Washington Street, the City's portion of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, has deteriorated due to a combination of factors. It has been more than 15 years since the roadway was last paved, and a high volume of traffic has contributed to its deterioration.

Washington Street is part of a major north/south access route between the District of Columbia and Fairfax County, in addition to serving a high volume of local traffic. It is also one of the major access routes to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Traffic counts indicate that Washington Street serves more than 55,000 vehicles daily, making it one of the most heavily traveled arterials in the City.

The cost of repaving Washington Street between First Street to the north and the Capital Beltway to the south is estimated to be \$1.45 million. This includes \$1.3 million for milling and repaving to a thickness of two inches. Pavement markings and traffic signal loop detectors comprise the balance of the budget.

Two inches of paving are required on arterial roadways, in contrast to one inch, which is adequate for residential streets with light traffic. If concrete deficiencies are found to underlie the existing roadway, they will be corrected prior to repaving. The cost of repairing any deficiencies is included in the cost estimate.

This repaving project would sustain a good quality riding surface for approximately 10 years.

The FY 2008 – 2013 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes \$6.6 million for street reconstructions in FY 2008. This money is designated for such City projects as correcting the structural deficiencies in the area of Madison and Montgomery streets, traffic calming, and the alley rehabilitation plan. Additionally, a portion of the budget is for projects in the State's six-year improvement plan, such as widening Eisenhower Avenue between Holland Lane and Stovall Street and realigning Mill Road. If City

Council does not change the CIP FY 2008 program, City staff will consider adding this project to the FY 2009 – 2014 CIP where it will have to compete with a large number of projects for funding.