Transportation Commission

April 20, 2022
7PM
Commission Members

- **Vacant** – DASH
- **Oscar Gonzalez** – Citizen East, High School Project
- **Casey Kane** – Traffic and Parking Board, Eisenhower West/ Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group
- **Jody Manor** – Planning Commission
- **Bruce Marsh** – Citizen East, Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Working Group
- **Jim Maslanka** – Citizen West
- **Melissa McMahon** – Planning Commission
- **Matthew McManus** – Citizen West
- **Bill Pugh** – Environmental Policy Commission, Eisenhower West/ Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group
- **Kirk McPike** – Council (non-voting)
- **Charles Sumpter** on behalf of **John Chapman** – Council (non-voting)
Public Comment Period

Agenda Item #1
Public Comment

• For speakers not discussing items related to the public hearings.
• Raise hand or press *9
• Mute or unmute press *6
• 3 minutes per speaker
3 Minute Timer

Announcement will sound automatically when time is up
Transportation Commission Minutes: March 16, 2022

Agenda Item #2
Updates on Fare-free New Dash Network and Consideration of Endorsement of the FY 2023 Transit Development plan (TDP)

Agenda Item #3
New DASH Network Performance Update

City of Alexandria - Transportation Commission
April 20, 2022
NEW NETWORK & FREE FARES

- “New DASH Network” was launched in September 2021 as the first phase of the Alexandria Transit Vision Plan.
- Complete redesign of Alexandria bus network with major changes to both DASH and Metrobus route structures.
- New Route Names (Lines 30-36, 102-104)
- Established a series of “frequent, all-day” bus lines on key transit corridors across the City.
- New network launch coincided with start of 100% fare free operations on all DASH buses.
KEY PERFORMANCE METRICS

- Service Availability - who can use the bus routes?
- Ridership - how much people are using them?
- On-Time Performance - can customers rely on it?
- Customer Feedback - what do the riders think?
- Operations Feedback - what do the operators think?
FREQUENT BUS SERVICE AVAILABILITY

Percent of Residents within 1/4 Mile of a Bus Stop with "Frequent, All-Day" Service

- All Residents: 27% (Old Network), 73% (New Network)
- Minority: 22% (Old Network), 81% (New Network)
- Low Income: 29% (Old Network), 78% (New Network)
- Seniors (65+): 24% (Old Network), 69% (New Network)
- Jobs: 40% (Old Network), 73% (New Network)
DASH Monthly Ridership (2021-2022)

*September 2021*
DASH Launches
New Network &
Free Fares

**NOTE:** January/February
ridership decreases were
due to Omicron surge and
reduced service levels.

% of Pre-COVID Service Levels

% of Pre-COVID Ridership

DASH Launches
New DASH Network
& Free Fares
(Sept. 5, 2021)
Total DASH Boardings by Route (2021)

- Line 35: 34.7%
- Line 31: 14.9%
- Line 30: 16.8%
- Trolley: 10.3%
- Line 36: 10.9%
- Line 102: 1.1%
- Line 103: 1.3%
- Line 104: 0.7%
- Line 102X: 0.5%
- Line 32: 3.4%
- Line 33: 1.5%
- Line 34: 4.2%

Note:
Frequent, all-day routes are shown in red.
Weekday-only routes are shown in green.
CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

- Significant increase in customer calls in September but returned back to normal in October & November.
- 90% of inquiries were for trip planning or route numbers.
- Biggest complaints have been regarding several areas where service was reduced or significantly changed (N. Van Dorn Street, Reading/Rayburn Ave, Old Town North)
- Increased number of commendations, particularly regarding free fares and frequent, all-day routes.
- Onboard ridership survey planned for Fall 2022.
OPERATIONS FEEDBACK

- Operators largely supportive of the new network, especially the simplified route structures.
- Free Fares have eliminated a major source of operator-customer conflict, but masks continue to be an issue.
- Transition to 24/7 Operations has been biggest challenge for Operations/Maintenance staff.
- Systemwide All-Door Boarding coming soon...
**NDN HIGHLIGHTS**

- Access to frequent, all-day service has increased dramatically with the New DASH Network launch.
- Ridership increased by 50% in the first four months, but buses still have excess capacity for additional growth.
- Customer feedback has been largely positive, especially after the first month. Lots of support for free fares.
- Operations impacts have been largely positive but some staffing/policy challenges related to 24/7 operations.
ATC FY23 Transit Development Plan (TDP)

DASH Advisory Committee Meeting
April 6, 2022
WHAT IS THE TDP?

- TDP = Transit Development Plan
- Annual process for DASH service/fare changes
- TDP Contents
  - System Overview
  - Performance Summary
  - Service & Fare Change Proposals
  - Capital Projects
- Requires public outreach & board approval
- Full FY23 TDP - [www.dashbus.com/tdp](http://www.dashbus.com/tdp)
FY 2023 Service Plan Summary

- FY23 Service Objectives
  - Bus Connections to the new Potomac Yard Metro
  - Continued Implementation of 2022 ATV Plan
  - Bus Stop Adjustments & Improvements
- Free fares expected to continue through to FY25
DASH BUS SERVICE TO POTOMAC YARD METRO
PROPOSED LINE 34 ROUTE CHANGE
UNFUNDED ATV IMPROVEMENTS (+$2.6M)

A. Improved Bus Connectivity from West Alexandria to Old Town (+$1.9M)

1. Line 30 - extend all peak trips from King St. Metro to Braddock Road for 10-minute peak headways in Old Town. Extend all weekend trips from Landmark Mall to Van Dorn Metro to provide 30 minutes service on that segment.

2. Line 31 - extend all off-peak trips from King St. Metro to Braddock Road for 15-minute off-peak headways in Old Town.

B. Weekend Frequency Improvements (+$700K)

3. Line 33 - increase Sunday service from 60 minutes to 30 minutes.

4. Line 34 - increase Sunday service from 60 minutes to 30 minutes.

5. Line 32 - increase midday, evening and weekend service from every 60 minutes to every 30 minutes.
UNFUNDED ATV IMPROVEMENTS
TDP OUTREACH

- Virtual Meetings & Public Hearing
  - Tuesday (3/22) - Community Meeting #1 (5:30 - 7:00 PM)
  - Thursday (3/31) - Community Meeting #2 (7:00 - 8:30 PM)
  - Wednesday (4/13) - Public Hearing at Board Meeting (5:30 PM)

- Onboard, At-Stop & Online Engagement

- TDP Information - www.dashbus.com/tdp
- TDP Public Comment - Friday, April 15th
- Public Comments to City Council on FY23 Budget: https://www.alexandriava.gov/Budget
QUESTIONS + DISCUSSION

Martin Barna
Director of Planning & Marketing
martin.barna@alexandriava.gov
Alex311 Process and Expectations

Item #4
Common Transportation 311s

• Maintenance Issues
  • Traffic signals
  • Bus stops
  • Parking meter equipment
  • Sidewalk and striping maintenance
  • Missing or damaged signage

• Requests for
  • Changes at traffic signals
  • Traffic control devices
  • Traffic calming devices
  • Intersection and corridor reconfigurations
  • New sidewalks, crosswalks, or infrastructure
  • Changes to signage or striping
  • Bus stops amenities
  • Bike racks
  • Parking regulation changes
Alex311 Case Numbers

96 Cases per Month - on average from 2021, received by Transportation Branch

4 requests per day - on average received by Traffic Operations
Process

• Staff aim to respond initially to give residents an idea of the timeline
  • Provide determination within service level agreement timeframe
• Address urgent problems or safety issues as soon as possible
• Accountability through responsiveness and adhering to larger plans
  • Being responsive to resident inquiries is extremely important to the City
  • Balance community requests with projects that have been identified in City adopted plans
• Community requests are not distributed equitably across Alexandrians
Map of Mobility, Access, and Traffic Safety Cases 2021
Complete Streets Approach

• Community requests collected and assessed annually
  • Feasible
  • Consistent with City policies and guidelines
  • Goal to be equitable and effective

• Staff identify top-scoring requests
  • Program budget
  • Priorities

• Following year’s budget and work plan
  • Alongside planned, priority projects from Council adopted plans.
Consistency with Plans and Policies

- Some requests are **not consistent** with City policies, engineering guidelines, or plans
  - Consider **root of the issue**
  - May consider other treatments
Direction to other processes

- May direct customers to other existing processes

- Examples:
  - Residential Permit Parking changes
  - Parking Modification Form
  - Speed cushion/traffic calming requests
Questions & Discussion
2022 Long Range Plan Scoring Criteria and Project List

Item #5
Scoring

• Discussion at Retreat:

  • Convert "Livability" into "Sustainability" to focus on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental sustainability issues,

  • Address infrastructure climate resilience needs under "Infrastructure,"

  • Address neighborhood livability concerns (that are not addressed by Sustainability) within the other criteria.
2020 Scoring Criteria

• Livability
  • What is impact on livability in the affected area?
  • What is the impact on livability in Alexandria?

• Connectivity
  • What is the effect on neighborhood connectivity and the City as a whole?
  • What is the effect on regional mobility?

• Land Use
  • How well does project focus investment near existing or proposed population or employment?
  • How well does project focus investment near opportunities for economic development?

• Mode Choice
  • Does the project improve or add multimodality?
  • Does the project encourage non-SOV travel?

• Infrastructure
  • Does the project improve aging infrastructure?

• Operations and Technology
  • Does the project improve system efficiency through an appropriate use of technology?

• Safety
  • What effect will the project have on crash risks and safety?
  • What effect will the project have on perceived personal safety?

• Equity
  • What is the impact of the proposed project on equity?
  • What is the impact of the proposed project on geographic equity?
2022 Proposed Scoring Criteria

• **Sustainability**
  • What is the impact on environmental sustainability in the affected area?
  • Does the project support environmental sustainability and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Alexandria and the region?

• **Connectivity**
  • What is the effect on neighborhood connectivity and the City as a whole?
  • What is the effect on regional mobility?

• **Land Use, Neighborhood Livability, & Economic Development**
  • How well does the project focus investment near existing or proposed population and employment centers?
  • How well does this project address neighborhood livability for current and future residents and workers?
  • How well does project focus investment near opportunities for economic development?

• **Mode Choice**
  • Does the project improve or add multimodality?
  • Does the project encourage non-SOV travel?

• **Infrastructure**
  • Does the project improve aging infrastructure?
  • Does the project make Alexandria’s transportation infrastructure more resilient to climate change?

• **Operations and Technology**
  • Does the project improve system efficiency through an appropriate use of technology?

• **Safety**
  • What effect will the project have on crash risks and safety?
  • What effect will the project have on perceived personal safety?

• **Equity**
  • What is the impact of the proposed project on equity?
  • What is the impact of the proposed project on geographic equity?
Project and Study List Update

• Removed projects or studies completed, not feasible or that can be funded

• Consolidated similar related projects

• Added new projects or studies that are major, unfunded projects
  • Projects to be paid for by developers are added to a separate table and not scored
2022 Removed Projects (Funded)

• Landmark Mall Transit Hub – (2020 Rank #1)

• Interim and Permanent Pedestrian Crossing Improvements on Eisenhower Avenue at Metrorail Station (2020 Rank #5)

• S. Patrick Street Pedestrian Improvements (2020 Rank #7)
2022 Moved Projects

• Removal of Ramp Over Duke Street

• This is being completed with Landmark/West End Town Center project – moved from unfunded project list to developer projects
2022 Adjusted Projects

• I-395 Ramps at Duke Street
  • 2020 project - direct access from I-395 ramps to West End Town Center (Landmark),
    • Determined to be infeasible after coordination with VDOT
  • Updated to reflect the newly planned modifications
    • I-395 ramps at Duke Street
    • Facilitate safer and more efficient access to the Landmark site
2022 Removed Studies

• Eisenhower Valley Metro Station Feasibility Study (S-2)
  • Recommended in the 2008 Transportation Master Plan
  • No longer considered in the Eisenhower East or West Small Area Plan updates or the Alexandria Mobility Plan
  • Removed from the studies list
2022 New Studies

• Mt. Vernon Avenue and Glebe Road Corridor Analyses (Arlandria-Chirilagua SAP)
2022 LRP New Projects

• Union Street Pedestrian and Safety Enhancements (Union Street Corridor Study)
Next Steps

By EOD April 25 – staff send Commissioners blank scoring templates for project list

25 Apr.

Commissioners send staff draft project scores

9 May

Transportation Commission Meeting: Discussion of Draft Project Scores

18 May

Transportation Commission Meeting: Present LRP and Consider for Adoption (Public Hearing)

15 June
LRP Project/Studies List Discussion
Recommendation

• That the Transportation Commission approve the proposed updated scoring criteria and updated Project, Developer Project, and Studies lists for the LRP.
Commissioner Updates
Agenda Item #6
Commission Members

• Oscar Gonzalez – Citizen East, High School Project
• Casey Kane – Traffic and Parking Board, Eisenhower West/ Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group
• Jody Manor – Planning Commission
• Bruce Marsh – Citizen East, Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Working Group
• Jim Maslanka – Citizen West
• Melissa McMahon – Planning Commission
• Matthew McManus – Citizen West
• Bill Pugh – Environmental Policy Commission, Eisenhower West/ Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group
• Kirk McPike – Council (non-voting)
• Charles Sumpter on behalf of John Chapman – Council (non-voting)
• Vacant – DASH
Items for Consent

Agenda Item #7
Other Business

• TPB Visualize 2045 Plan – Public Comment Opportunity
  • [https://visualize2045.org/plan-update/draft-plan/](https://visualize2045.org/plan-update/draft-plan/)

• 495 Southside Express Lanes – Public Meetings
Adjourn Transportation Commission Meeting

Next meeting: May 18, 2022