

**Transportation Commission
Annual Report
July 2021 – June 2022**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Transportation Commission includes to advocate and promote development of balanced transportation systems for the City of Alexandria, through oversight of the implementation of the Transportation Chapter of the City's adopted Master Plan. Within these guidelines, the Transportation Commission membership completed the following activities during its 2021/22 session.

Transportation Commission Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- While a number of positions turned over during the year, membership remained steady with a quorum achieved at all scheduled meetings.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission held virtual meetings from the beginning of the fiscal year through March 2022, then successfully transitioned to hybrid meetings with virtual and in-person options in April 2022 through the end of the fiscal year.

Coordination with other Boards

- The Transportation Commission includes membership from the Planning Commission, the Traffic and Parking Board, the Environmental Policy Commission, the Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Working Group, and the DASH Board.
- At every Transportation Commission meeting, the Transportation Commission receives updates and reports back on Transportation Commission topics to their respective board.
- No formal policy changes have been made.
- The Transportation Commission had a joint meeting with the Environmental Policy Commission in October 2021.
- Members of the Transportation Commission, Environmental Policy Commission, and Planning Commission coordinated to provide a letter to City Council on the Climate Emergency.

Transportation Commission Member Activities

- Oscar Gonzalez is serving on the ACPS Superintendent's Advisory Team for the High School Project
- Casey Kane is serving on the Eisenhower West/Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group and Ad Hoc Duke Street Transitway Committee

2021-2022 Accomplishments

- See Attachment 2

Goals for 2022-2023

- Provide input on City consideration of transportation grants.

- Consider endorsements for transportation grants and weigh in on transportation components of other plans and the City budget.
- Continue to hold hybrid meetings to ensure convenient participation for the Commissioners and the public.
- Hold a joint session with the Environmental Policy Commission.

Leadership

- Officers for the 2021 calendar year were elected at the January 2021 meeting. Melissa McMahon was elected as chair and Oscar Gonzalez was elected as Vice-Chair. Officers for the 2022 calendar year were elected at the January 2022 meeting. Oscar Gonzalez was elected as chair and Bruce Marsh was elected as Vice-Chair.
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed.
 - John Goebel resigned July 2021
 - Jeremy Drislane resigned November 2021
 - James Maslanka appointed November 2021
 - Laurence Chambers resigned December 2021
 - Jody Manor appointed January 2022
 - Matthew McManus appointed January 2022
 - Bill Pugh's term ended May 2022
 - Murat Omay appointed June 2022
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Councilman Canek Aguirre (non-voting)
 - Councilman John Chapman (non-voting)
 - Councilman Kirk McPike (non-voting)
 - Laurence Chambers
 - Jeremy Drislane
 - Oscar Gonzalez
 - Casey Kane
 - Jody Manor
 - Bruce Marsh
 - James Maslanka
 - Melissa McMahon
 - Matthew McManus
 - Bill Pugh
 - Murat Omay
- Megan Oleynik, Transportation & Environmental Services acted as the staff liaison to Transportation Commission during the 2020/2021 year.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Annual Attendance Report

Attachment 2: FY22 Accomplishments Summary

Attachment 3: Notable Letters:

1. Any notable letters to City Council, date, subject

- Endorsed Alexandria Mobility Plan – September 2021
- Endorsed TRIP Grant Request – September 2021
- Endorsed NVT A 70% Discretionary Grant Request – October 2021
- Endorsed CMAQ and RSTP Funding Request – November 2021
- Endorsed DRPT Operating and Capital Assistance State Aid Applications and the Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant Applications – December 2021
- Endorsed Transportation Land Use Connection Grant Request – January 2022
- Provided Feedback on Climate Change Emergency with Environmental Policy Commission and Planning Commission – February 2022
- Endorsed Regional Roadway Safety Grant Request – February 2022
- Endorsed RAISE Grant Request – March 2022
- Endorsed SMARTSCALE Grant Request – March 2022
- Provided Feedback to Councilman Aguirre on Transportation Planning Board Climate Survey – March 2022
- Endorsed FY23 Transit Development Plan – April 2022
- Endorsed Low and No Emissions Grant and Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Requests – May 2022
- Endorsed Safe Streets for All Grant Request – June 2022
- Endorsed DRPT WMATA Mitigations Grant Request – June 2022

2. Any letters to other Advisory Groups, date, subject

- Provided Feedback on FY23 City Budget to City Manager – October 2021

- Provided Feedback on WMATA FY23 Budget – January 2021
3. Any completed reports or relevant documents
- Transportation Long Range Plan – June 2022
 - Alexandria Mobility Plan – October 2021

**APPENDIX F.
ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT TEMPLATE**

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022

CHAIRPERSON: OSCAR GONZALEZ

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
COUNCILMAN CANEK AGUIRRE (NON-VOTING)			E	X	X	E						
COUNCILMAN JOHN CHAPMAN (NON-VOTING)			E	X	X	E	X	E	E	E	E	E
COUNCILMAN KIRK MCPIKE (NON-VOTING)							X	X	E	E	X	X
LAURENCE CHAMBERS			X	X	X	X						
JEREMY DRISLANE			U	U	U							
OSCAR GONZALEZ			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	X
CASEY KANE			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
JODY MANOR							X	X	X	X	X	X
BRUCE MARSH			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
JAMES MASLANKA					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MELISSA MCMAHON			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MATTHEW MCMANUS							X	X	X	X	X	X
BILL PUGH			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
MURAT OMAI												X

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT

E - FOR EXCUSED

U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- Jeremy Drislane

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

(APPROVED) _____ (Chairperson)

Attachment 2 – Transportation Commission Major Initiatives in FY 2022

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	SCHEDULE
Alexandria Mobility Plan	The Transportation Commission served on the Advisory Committee for the Alexandria Mobility Plan and provided guidance on the plan development.	September 2021
Grant Endorsements	<p>The Transportation Commission regularly reviewed and endorsed grant applications for Council approval as being consistent with the Alexandria Mobility Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan, including for the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TRIP Grant - NOVA 70% Discretionary Grant - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality / Regional Surface Transportation Program - DRPT State Aid Grant and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance Grant - Transportation Land Use Connections Grant - Roadway Safety Grant - SMARTSCALE Grant - Low and No Emissions and Bus and Bus Facilities Grant - Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant - DRPT WMATA Shutdown Mitigations Grant <p>These grant applications included funding for DASH service enhancements, West End Transitway Phase 1b, roadway improvements around Landmark Mall, Transportation Demand Management, Safe Routes to Schools, and other pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements, among other things.</p>	Ongoing
Transportation Updates	Throughout the year, the Commission received updates on the progress of plan implementation and other major events impacting transportation in the City including the WMATA budget, the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Readiness Strategy, DOT Paratransit, the Alexandria Mobility Plan, the City's Operation and Capital Improvement Program Budgets, and the DASH Transit Development Plan.	Ongoing
Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area plan	Staff provided an update to the Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area Plan and the Commission provided feedback.	September 2021
Alexandria Mobility Plan – public hearing	The Transportation Commission held a public hearing for the Alexandria Mobility Plan.	September 2021
Joint Session with Environmental Policy Commission	Transportation Commission held a Joint Session with Environmental Policy Commission to discuss shared priorities and now the bodies could work together to move them forward.	October 2021
FY23 City Operating Budget and FY23-32 Capital Improvement Program	The Transportation Commission provided input to the City Manager on the proposed transportation related budget items in the City Manager's budget.	October 2021

WMATA BOS Study	WMATA Staff presented updates on their Blue-Orange-Silver Capacity Study and the Commission provided feedback.	November 2021
WMATA Budget	Staff provided an update to the Commission on the status of WMATA's FY22 Budget and the Commission provided feedback.	January 2022
Capital Bikeshare	Staff provided an update to the Commission on the City's Capital Bikeshare program and asked for feedback on the future of the program	January 2022
Duke Street in Motion	Staff provided an update to the Commission on the Duke Street in Motion Project and the Commission provided feedback.	February 2022
FY23 City Operating Budget and FY23-32 Capital Improvement Program	Staff provided an update on the budget process.	March 2022
Transportation Commission Retreat	Staff and Commissioners held a weekend retreat to review Transportation Commission purpose, goals, and to introduce the Long Range Plan.	April 2021
New DASH Network and Transit Development Plan	DASH staff presented on the ridership and service level updates since the implementation of the DASH New Network transition to fare free. They presented on the FY23 Transit Development Plan and Transportation Commission provided a letter of feedback.	May 2021
DOT Paratransit	Staff presented on statistics of the current DOT Paratransit program and provided information about completed and planned changes to the program. Commissioners provided feedback.	May 2021
Complete Streets Five-year Plan	Staff provided an update to the Commission on the Complete Streets Five-year Plan and the Commission provided feedback.	June 2022
VDOT I-495 Express Lanes Study	VDOT staff provided an update to the Commission on the Complete Streets Five-year Plan and the Commission provided feedback.	June 2022
Transportation Long Range Plan (Unconstrained/Unfunded Projects List)	The Commission updated the Transportation Long Range Plan. The Long Range Plan process was first introduced at the April 2022 Commission Retreat. The Commission then reviewed the projects and scoring criteria, reviewed draft evaluation scores of the in May and held a public hearing and approved the 2022 LRP in June 2022.	April – June 2022



Alexandria Transportation Commission

301 King Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

www.alexandriava.gov

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

October 4, 2021

Re: Endorsement of Alexandria Mobility Plan

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its September 29, 2021 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse Council's adoption of the Alexandria Mobility Plan to replace the existing Transportation Master Plan Chapter of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Transportation Commission motion included the recommendation that Council consider adding an action to Transit Strategy 2, as follows:

"Explore connecting Alexandria's transitways with high capacity transit corridors in Fairfax to help create a more reliable and efficient regional bus network."

In seeking to expand and improve multi-modal choices, the Alexandria Mobility Plan will help to achieve City goals related to sustainability, quality of life, and economic well-being. We are proud of this plan's explicit and thoughtful connection to existing City Council-adopted plans and policies, as well as its heightened focus on equity and inclusion, both in the planning process and in the implementation results of the plan. The performance measures and targets help make this high-level plan actionable and enable staff and the public to more effectively monitor progress.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the City's robust multi-phased public engagement process that took a variety of approaches to reach various facets of the community. Though the needs of the community are not uniform, this plan balances those diverse interests while working to advance established City goals and policies.

Finally, Commissioners felt it important to emphasize in this letter that a great plan is nothing without commitment to implementation, and the Commission uniformly and strongly requests that Council fully and quickly budget for implementation of these policies, strategies, and actions in order to see the results of this community effort come to life.

Thank you for your consideration of this plan.

Sincerely,



Melissa McMahon

Chair, Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission

301 King Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

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September 29, 2021

The Honorable Shannon Valentine
Secretary of Transportation Commonwealth of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

RE: City of Alexandria's Application for TRIP Funding to Support Zero-Fare Service from FY 2022 to FY 2024

Dear Secretary Valentine:

On behalf of the Alexandria Transportation Commission, I am writing to express support for the City of Alexandria's application for \$7.2 million in Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) funding which will allow the City of Alexandria and DASH to provide zero-fare transit service for the remainder of FY 2022 through FY 2024.

The City of Alexandria and DASH committed to going fare-free beginning September 5 in conjunction with the implementation of the New DASH Network, a comprehensive redesign of the DASH bus system which will provide more frequent service to more people across Alexandria.

Through a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) grant to study the costs and benefits of different fare options to benefit low-income residents, the City of Alexandria determined that a fare-free DASH system would provide the greatest benefit to the most low-income individuals as well as the greatest benefit to Alexandria residents overall with the least administrative burden. Free fares on DASH are consistent with the City's comprehensive transportation master plan, which seeks to enhance equity and encourage more transit ridership.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa McMahon", is written over a horizontal line.

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

City Manager Mark Jinks

301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

October 20, 2021

Re: FY 2023 Budget Priorities

Dear City Manager:

At its September meeting, the Transportation Commission received an update from staff on the FY 2023 budget process. The Commission discussed the City Manager's letter to Boards and Commissions requesting feedback on priority budget options that will help the City further **smart, equitable, and green** programs in FY 2023 while maintaining and attracting employees.

The Transportation Commission recognizes the challenges of this fiscal year that the City Manager has highlighted and supports the advancement of these priorities. Transportation funding will be critical to supporting these priority areas. The Transportation Commission has identified four key budget priorities this year:

1. Additional staff for the Complete Streets program
2. Implementation of the Alexandria Transit Vision Plan
3. Contingency funding for trail infrastructure repair and maintenance
4. Supporting the transportation recommendations of the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan

First, the Transportation Commission recommends the budget include funding for at least two additional Complete Streets staff for a minimum of four staff to support bicycle and pedestrian programs in Alexandria. Additional Complete Street Staff will allow the City to more efficiently implement the Bicycle and Pedestrian chapters of the Alexandria Mobility Plan (AMP) and support the Vision Zero Action Plan goal of eliminating serious and fatal crashes in Alexandria by 2028 with an increased focus on addressing equity areas and high crash locations as recommended in the AMP. The Manager's equity priority is evidenced here as communities of color and lower-income communities typically have much higher rates of pedestrian crashes and higher need for Complete Streets investments. Prioritizing funding for Complete Streets staffing is also consistent with the City Manager's goal of maintaining and attracting employees.

Second, the Transportation Commission believes that DASH bus service is critical to ensuring the most vulnerable will have access to jobs and essential services and to reducing greenhouse gases and lessening the City's climate impacts. The Alexandria Transit Vision Plan laid out a framework network to expand access to low-income and minority populations. Fully funding the proposed network will improve access for most Alexandria residents and make DASH service more efficient. This should include providing frequent, all-day service on the Duke Street corridor.

Third, increased flooding and severe weather events in Alexandria have taken a toll on several bridges and trails that serve people walking and biking in Alexandria. These routes have been closed while the City designs and implements repairs. These long term closures cause disruptions in travel and makes it more difficult for Alexandrians to choose active modes that can help improve health outcomes, reduce greenhouse gases, and reduce congestion on City streets. These routes must be safe and reliable in order for people to use them for actual travel needs and not just recreation. Therefore, the Transportation Commission recommends creating a contingency fund for trail maintenance that would be available as repairs are needed.

Finally, the Transportation Commission recommends the City prepare to fund the transportation recommendations of the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (EECAP). This may include increasing access to electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging, transportation access equity programs, and funding to achieve mode shift and sustainability strategies outlined in the Alexandria Mobility Plan. This funding need is anticipated to begin in the latter half of FY 2023 upon the conclusion of the EECAP process, but it is critical to anticipate, rather than postpone, the allocation of resources toward this important plan.

Thank you for considering these priority areas to help the City advance its strategic goals.

Sincerely,



Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager Mark Jinks
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Chief of Transportation Planning Division, T&ES
Megan Oleynik, Urban Planner, T&ES



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Phone: 703.746.4025

Monica Backmon, CEO
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

October 20, 2021

Re: Letter of support for grant applications for: FY 2026 – 27 NVTA 70% Discretionary Grant

Dear Monica Backmon:

At its October 20, 2021 meeting, the Alexandria Transportation Commission voted to provide this letter of endorsement in support of the proposed grant applications for the FY 2026-FY 2027 NVTA 70% Discretionary Grant:

- Up to \$5 million toward the South Van Dorn Street / Bridge design (TransAction Project #42 – West End Transitway); and
- Up to \$5 million toward the Holmes Run Trail Dora Kelley Fair-weather crossing bridge construction (TransAction Project #90 – Alexandria Bike and Pedestrian Trails Construction and Reconstruction)

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for this important grant program. This grant and recommended projects are consistent with the City's Transportation Master Plan and will help to make Alexandria a more sustainable, accessible and safe city with enhanced multi-modal transportation options.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa McMahon", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES



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Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

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Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council

301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

November 30, 2021

Re: Endorsement of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvements (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Project Funding Request for FY28 and FY29

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its November 17, 2021, meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the CMAQ and RSTP Project Funding Request for FY28 and FY29 for \$4.5 million per year or total of \$9.0 million over two years. We enthusiastically support funding for multi-modal transportation projects which have many goals, including reducing air pollutants in nonattainment areas such as the Washington region. The City's request for FY28 and FY29 includes funding for Duke Street Transitway Operations, Mt. Vernon Avenue improvements between Four Mile Run and Glebe Road, Commuter Assistance mobile store services, and the next update to the Alexandria Mobility Plan.

FY28-FY29 CMAQ/RSTP Proposed Program

Project Name	FY28	FY29
Duke Street Transitway Operations (CMAQ)	\$3,300,000	\$3,750,000
Mt. Vernon Avenue (CMAQ)	\$1,000,000	\$0
Commuter Assistance (CMAQ)	\$200,000	\$0
Alexandria Mobility Plan	\$0	\$750,000
TOTAL	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000

Thank you for your consideration of these important funding requests.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager Mark Jinks
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES



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

December 17, 2021

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2023 DRPT Operating and Capital Assistance State Aid Applications and the Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant Applications and Approval of Required Matching Funds.

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its December 17, 2021 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff recommended requests for FY 2023 Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) operating and capital assistance, and FY 2023 Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant application and approved the required matching funds:

DRPT Operating Assistance

- Up to \$28,500,000, the City's eligible operating expenses for FY 2023

DRPT Capital Assistance

- Up to \$4,800,000 to buy eight clean diesel buses

Commuter Assistance Program

- Up to \$331,300 to fund two staff and programming.
 - This requires a \$66,260 local match

These requests support the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for the FY 2023 DRPT Grant request formulated to procure DRPT operating and capital funds and the FY 2023 Commuter Assistance Program grant request.

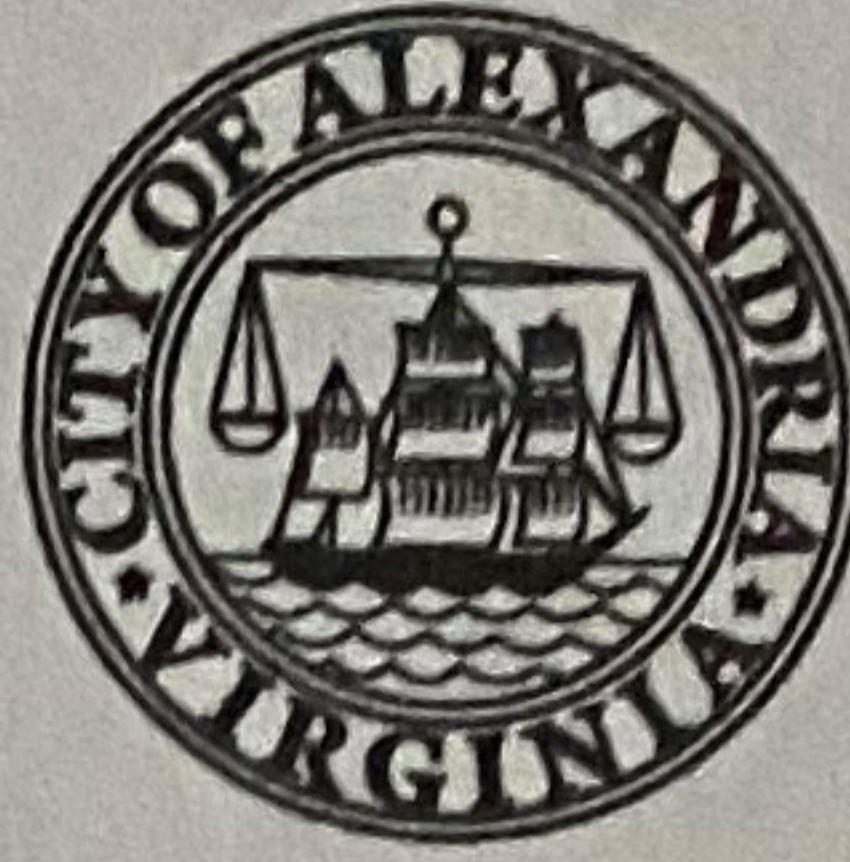
Sincerely,



Melissa McMahon

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager Mark Jinks
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES



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

ATTACHMENT 1

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
January 19, 2022

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2023 Transportation and Land Use Connections Grant Applications

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its January 19, 2022 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the following staff-recommended grant applications to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation and Land Use Connections Program:

1. Up to \$80,000 to develop designs for crossing improvements recommended through the City's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program.
2. Up to \$60,000 to conduct SRTS walk audits for Ferdinand T. Day Elementary, George Washington Middle, Francis Hammond Middle, and Alexandria City High School.

These requests support the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan and the Vision Zero Action Plan. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for the FY 2023 Transportation and Land Use Connections Program.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Oscar Gonzalez".

Oscar Gonzalez
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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



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Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

February 1, 2022

Re: WMATA FY23 Budget Comments

Dear WMATA Board of Directors:

I am writing on behalf of the Alexandria Transportation Commission, which oversees the development and implementation of the goals of the City's transportation master plan, the Alexandria Mobility Plan, which seeks to foster multimodal choices in the City. Thank you for accepting our comments on the FY23 budget.

We understand this is a challenging time for transit agencies nationwide and that the budget situation requires many tough decisions. We generally support the current budget but would like to highlight a few items of interest to the Transportation Commission.

First, we are concerned about the looming fiscal cliff in FY24 and believe that WMATA should seek to try to limit unnecessary spending in FY23. To that end, fare discounts, such as the value-add bonus, which are expensive and likely not the most effective way to encourage new ridership, should be reconsidered.

In terms of service, we do not believe that during the midst of the Covid crisis, that there was sufficient time to weigh in the future of our bus routes in a comprehensive manner. We generally appreciate the focus on all-day frequent service, and particularly the increased level of service on the 28A and 29K/N; however, we believe that it would still be beneficial to return the 11Y and 7Y service to downtown.

These routes provide alternatives to transferring to a troubled rail service and can attract riders out of their cars. The 11Y service would be a convenient alternative for transit commuters during the Yellow Line shutdown planned for FY23. The 7Y offered more direct service than

Metrorail from Alexandria to destinations and employment centers along Constitution Avenue and had high ridership pre-Covid, demand that could return as riders go back into the office. We have been told that the Bus Network Redesign may be an appropriate venue to consider the reintroduction of these and similar services long-term and hope that the jurisdictions are fully incorporated into that process.

With regards to the current state of rail service, we would like to see more accountability overall, but also specifically when it comes to the issues with the 7000 series cars. We believe the lack of accountability is leading to less reliable service, which in turn leads to decreased ridership and further budget issues. We hope things start to turn around quickly. We thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on the WMATA Budget.

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Alexandria City Council
City Manager James F. Parajon
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES



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

ATTACHMENT 1

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
January 19, 2022

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2023 Regional Roadway Safety Grant Application

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its February 16, 2022 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the following staff-recommended grant applications to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Regional Roadway Safety Grant Program:

1. Up to \$80,000 to develop designs for safety improvements at two high-crash intersections: South Patrick Street & Duke Street, and South Henry Street & Duke Street.

This request supports the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan and the Vision Zero Action Plan. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for the FY 2023 Regional Roadway Safety Program.

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

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
James Parajon, City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, T&ES



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

March 16, 2022

Re: **Endorsement of Consideration of the RAISE Grant Funding Requests**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:


At its March 16 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff-recommended project for the new U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure With Sustainability And Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant, previously known as TIGER grants. The proposed application would be for up to \$6 million for improvements at the intersection of King Street and N. Beauregard Street.

The proposed design includes crossing improvements, pedestrian refuge islands, and curb ramps to enhance safety at this location. The medians will be widened to narrow travel lanes to slow traffic and will include green elements to improve stormwater management on the site.

This request supports the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan and the Vision Zero Action Plan. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for RAISE funding, as well as to provide its endorsement to Council.

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

Sincerely,


Gonzalez Oscar (Mar 17, 2022 15:32 EDT)

Oscar Gonzalez

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager

Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES

Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES

Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning



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

March 16, 2022

Re: **Endorsement of Consideration of FY 2028 SMART SCALE Funding Requests**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its March 16 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff-recommended list of four projects for pre-application for grant funding for the FY 2028 SMART SCALE program. The proposed application for the three City projects and one DASH project would include up to \$56 million for the following requests:

1. I-395 Exit Ramp Improvements at Duke St - *Up to \$14 million*
2. Duke St and Van Dorn St Intersection Improvements - *Up to \$20 million*
3. Metroway Extension - *Up to \$10 million*
4. DASH Facility Expansion Phase II - *Up to \$12 million*

Transportation Commission is aware that because the timeline for submissions of pre-applications is significantly sooner than the application deadline, staff will develop more detailed cost estimates over the next several months, and that the amounts above are maximum funding requests.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for SMART SCALE funding, as well as to provide its endorsement to Council.

May you have any questions; do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning



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Councilman Canek Aguirre
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 22, 2022

Re: Transportation Planning Board Climate Survey

Dear Councilman Aguirre:

I am writing on behalf of the Alexandria Transportation Commission. At the Commission's March 16 meeting, we discussed the Transportation Planning Board's (TPB's) survey on potential on-road transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions which will help set goals in the Long Range Transportation Plan (Visualize 2045).

The TPB's Climate Change Mitigation Study (CCMS) identified three primary pathways to reduce on-road GHG emissions: (1) conversion of the motor vehicle fleet to electric vehicles or lower carbon fuels; (2) reduction in motor vehicle travel through mode shifts and changes in travel behavior; and (3) improvement in motor vehicle travel efficiency through traffic system management and operations. Per findings shared by Commissioner Bill Pugh from the Coalition on Smarter Growth (Attachment 1), we feel that significant actions in all three areas are needed in order to meet GHG reduction goals.

The Commission discussed a few actions presented in the survey as areas of particular interest. The Commission supports City and regional efforts to encourage EV adoptions and to expand the EV charging network. We also believe that the proposed housing and land use actions outlined in the survey to increase housing near transit and activity centers and to shift housing and jobs to transit and activity centers are critical to meeting climate change goals. The Transportation Commission is very supportive of the DASH free fare program and would like to see continued free and reduced fare transit in the City and the region as a strategy to shift trips from personal vehicles to transit. Finally, the Commission noted that pricing can be a very influential factor in mode choice, and particularly noted that thoughtful parking pricing and/or parking cash-out programs could help meet mode shift goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important survey. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Oscar J. Gonzalez
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Alexandria City Council
City Manager James F. Parajon
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 - Coalition for Smarter Growth Recommendations for Local Governments and Transportation Agencies Regarding the TPB Climate Change Mitigation Goals and Strategies Questionnaire March 2022



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

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

April 20, 2022

Re: **Endorsement of the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) FY23 Transit Development Plan (TDP)**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its April 20, the Transportation Commission received an update from DASH on the FY23 Transit Development Plan. The Commission voted to endorse DASH's recommended improvements outlined in that plan including those currently unfunded in the City's proposed FY23 budget. Those unfunded improvements include improved bus connectivity from West Alexandria to Old Town (costing approximately an additional \$1.9 million) and weekend frequency improvements on Lines 32, 33, and 34 (costing approximately at an additional \$700,000).

The Transportation Commission believes the improvements proposed in the TDP including the unfunded serve improvements are critical to meeting goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan, Transit Vision Plan, and the Environmental Action Plan 2040 of providing frequent, reliable transit service to all Alexandrians and encouraging reduction of single occupancy vehicle trips in the City. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to receive this update from DASH, as well as to provide its endorsement to Council.

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

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning



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

June 15, 2022

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for mitigation funding from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to offset Metrorail service impacts during the Potomac Yard Rail Cutover and Yellow Line Bridge/Tunnel Work**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its June 15 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse a grant application for mitigation funding of up to \$1,000,000 from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to offset Metrorail service impacts during the Potomac Yard Rail cutover and Yellow Line bridge/tunnel work.

As outlined by staff, elements of the plan could include the following types of mitigation measures:

- Robust communication, marketing and employer outreach, in partnership with WMATA
- Access to transportation options such as the water taxi, discounted Capital Bikeshare memberships, HOV lane changes, enhanced way-finding, and discounted or free travel on Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
- Enhanced support for data monitoring such as bike trail counters, StreetLight data

Transportation Commission understands that DASH buses are not anticipated to play the same role they did during the 2019 Platform Improvement Project due to a lack of operators to take on additional routes.

The Commission also understands that DRPT Mitigation funds require a 20% local match, and if the City's grant request is awarded, the match would be \$200,000. The match would be funded through unappropriated Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) 30% fund balance. The Commission encourage that staff time to manage and administer these projects be included in the applications where feasible.

This request will help the City meet goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan including maintaining transportation choices for residents, employees, and visitors while there are Metrorail service

impacts. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide its endorsement to Council.

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

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Josh Baker, General Manager and CEO, DASH
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning



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

June 15, 2022

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for the FY 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its June 15 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse a grant application for funding up to \$1,000,000 through the FY 2022 Safe Streets and Road for All (SS4A) Program from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to support Vision Zero safety initiatives.

Transportation Commission supports staff's proposal to request funding under the **Action Plan – Supplemental Activities** program for a “high crash intersection” project that would involve the following activities at up to ten locations:

- Organize intersection audits including representation from the City, consultant team experts, community members, and key stakeholder organizations
- Compile intersection data including detailed crash analyses, vehicle and pedestrian volumes, turning movement counts, signal timing, and lane configurations
- Conduct engagement opportunities throughout the process
- Identify safety countermeasures based on intersection audit feedback and design best practices
- Develop concept designs for safety improvements at the selected intersections.

This project supports the Vision Zero Action Plan goal of building safer streets for everyone as well as the following strategies in the Alexandria Mobility Plan:

- Implement the Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2028.
- Create a safe, well-maintained, and comfortable walking and biking environment.

This project is consistent with the Transportation Long Range Plan and the project added to the plan by Transportation Commission in November 2021 titled “Vision Zero High Crash Intersection Improvements.”

Transportation Commission understands the SS4A grant program requires a 20% local match, and that if the City's grant request is awarded, the match would be approximately \$200,000. The match would be funded through unappropriated Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) 30% fund balance.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff's proposal and to provide its endorsement to Council.

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

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Josh Baker, General Manager and CEO, DASH
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning