



Transportation Commission Meeting

**January 18, 2023
7:00 PM**

**City Hall
301 King Street
Council Workroom**

AGENDA

1. Public Comment (Not to exceed 10 min)
2. Minutes of the November 16, 2022 and December 21, 2022 meetings
3. Action Item: Consideration of Endorsement of MWCOG Grants
4. Action Item: Confirm December 2022 Commission Meeting Endorsements
 - A. Consideration of Endorsement of I-395 Commuter Choice Grant Applications
 - B. Consideration of Endorsement of FY24 DRPT State Aid Grant and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance Grant Applications
 - C. Consideration of a Letter of Support and Feedback for ECCAP
5. Discussion Item: 2023 Transportation Commission Work Plan
6. Action Item: Chair and Vice Chair Elections
7. Commissioner Updates
8. Items for Consent
 - A. No Turn on Reds Proposed onto S. Patrick and S. Henry Streets
 - B. Updates to the Complete Streets and Vision Zero Websites
 - C. Duke Street in Motion
 - D. WMATA Updates
9. Other Business

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 15, 2023



The January 18, 2023, meeting of the Transportation Commission is being held in the City Council Workroom on the second floor of City Hall (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314) 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 via Zoom by registering at the following link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v_v6yhnLRzm1PaVLmZFedw

Or by phone: 301 715 8592
Meeting ID: 912 8353 1951
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 01/18/23 to Megan.Oleynik@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 703-746-4086 or TTY/TTD 703-838-5056.



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

November 16, 2022
7:00 p.m.
Council Work Room

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Oscar Gonzalez, Commissioner Melissa McMahon, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner James Maslanka, Commissioner Matthew McManus, Commissioner Jody Manor, Vice Chair Bruce Marsh (virtual), Councilman Kirk McPike.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann – Transportation Planning Division Chief, Megan Oleynik – Transportation Planning Division, Sharese Thomas – Transportation Planning Division, and Bill Eger – General Services.

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

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

Chair Gonzalez called the Transportation Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. Public Comment Period

Bill Pugh (virtual) a resident of the City expressed concerns about the lack of response from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) regarding streetlight outages and expressed that the City should have a way to share and track streetlight outage requests through VDOT. Mr. Pugh asked Staff to follow-up with VDOT on this issue. Staff will follow-up with VDOT and report back to the Commission.

Morgan Babcock (virtual) a member of the Carlyle Council discussed the lack of checks and balances in Alex 311. She asked the Commission for its support in relaying to the City Manager that a lot of 311 system tickets don't get assigned and go unaddressed.

2. October Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes: Commissioner McMahon

Second: Commissioner Kane

Motion carries unanimously

3. DISCUSSION ITEM: King Street and Commonwealth Avenue Rail Bridge Update (VPRA)

ISSUE: Briefing from Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) on a Feasibility Study to determine the future of the rail bridges over King Street and Commonwealth Avenue in the City of Alexandria.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide feedback to VPRA on the King Street and Commonwealth Avenue Rail Bridges Feasibility Study.

DISCUSSION: Claire Mansfield, Government Affairs Manager, with the VPRA provided an overview on the King Street and Commonwealth Avenue Rail Bridges feasibility study. The study was performed to identify, screen, and establish a recommended design option to either rehabilitate or replace the existing rail bridges. Four design options were developed to modernize the existing rail bridges, reduce maintenance, and accommodate a future fourth railroad track. VPRA is recommending the bridge replacement design option and will be soliciting public input by comment survey that is open through December 2. The study is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2022. Commissioners asked clarifying questions and recommended horizontal widening of the bridges.

Motion for the Transportation Commission to have staff review low clearance signage around the King Street Avenue Bridge and report back to the Commission at the December meeting:

Commissioner McManus

Second: Commissioner Maslanka

Motion carries unanimously

4. DISCUSSION ITEM: Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP)

ISSUE: Briefing on Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP) Update.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission discuss the updated ECCAP working draft and provide feedback.

DISCUSSION: Bill Eger, Energy Manager, presented an update on the ECCAP 2040. The goal of the ECCAP is to increase the City's preparedness to respond to the impacts of climate change and environmental emergencies. Mr. Eger discussed the development process and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Community feedback will be received to take to council for consideration in January 2023. Commissioner McMahon suggested having more frequent updates on the data points and making the update more actionable than other documents that preceded it. The Commission will review the working draft and provide feedback at the next meeting.

5. ACTION ITEM: Consideration of Letter of Endorsement of Duke Street in Motion Guiding Principles

ISSUE: Consideration of a letter of endorsement for the Duke Street in Motion Guiding Principles.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission endorse the draft letter to the Duke Street Advisory Group

DISCUSSION: Megan Oleynik, Long Range Planner, presented the draft letter to the Duke Street Advisory Group for approval. Commissioner McManus expressed concerns with the letter, indicating he felt additional community outreach was needed before making decisions regarding the guiding principles or other aspects of the project. Commissioners provided feedback on what they would like to include in the draft letter to the Duke Street Advisory Group. Staff will make the recommended changes.

Motion for the Transportation Commission to endorse the Guiding Principles of the Duke Street in Motion Project through the draft letter provided in the docket with the modification:

Commissioner McMahon

Second: Commissioner Maslanka

Commissioner McManus abstained

Motion carries

Commissioner updates

Commissioner Gonzalez - Construction is continuing on the High School Project.

Commissioner Kane –The Traffic and Parking Board met on November 14th and discussed taxicab updates.

Commissioner Maslanka – Participated in a public meeting at the Potomac River Generating Site. A comprehensive overview was given.

Commissioner McMahon – The Transportation Management Plan (TMP) policy update item was deferred at the Planning Commission. Thursday, December 1st is the Planning Commission Retreat from 12-5pm at Charleston Houston.

Commissioner McManus - Mentioned that bus route 28A and routes that link area west of Quaker Lane were not in service and having alternative bus options are helpful.

6. Items for Consent

A. Seminary Road Evaluation Report

DISCUSSION: Commissioner McManus expressed concerns that data reported was not a reflection of typical conditions due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion for Staff to report back to the Commission in June about the changes in volumes and usage of the streets pre- vs. post-pandemic: Commissioner McManus

Second: Commissioner McMahon

Motion carries

B. 2029 CMAQ/RSTP Grant Applications

7. Other Business

Bike lanes article and status on protected bike lanes in Alexandria
Fully Virtual December 21 Meeting

Adjournment

At 9:09 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

December 21, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Virtual

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Vice Chair Bruce Marsh, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner Matthew McManus, Commissioner Jody Manor.

Staff Present: Hillary Orr – Transportation Branch Deputy Director, Megan Oleynik – Transportation Planning Division, Sharese Thomas – Transportation Planning Division.

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

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

Vice Chair Marsh called the Transportation Commission meeting at 7:05 p.m.

NOTE: A quorum was not available for this meeting, and therefore votes taken during the meeting are considered recommendations to the larger Commission.

1. Public Comment Period

Sash Impastato, a member of the Cameron Civic Association, discussed the City's pedestrian bridge study that is expected to begin in 2024 and the bridge study on the multi-modal bridge Farrington Connector and widening improvements to the Van Dorn Bridge. Mr. Impastato requested that since these two studies are bifurcated that priority be given to the multi-modal bridge because it will link up to the Van Dorn Metro Station and plans in the Eisenhower West small area don't have a multi-modal bridge.

2. November Minutes

Recommendation to approve the minutes: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner McManus

Recommendation was unanimous.

3. ACTION ITEM: Consideration of Endorsement of I-395 Commuter Choice Grant Applications

ISSUE: Consideration of a letter of support for grant applications from DASH and the City of Alexandria for the FY 2024-2025 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission adopt the Letter of Support for the three (3) I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant applications for up to \$26.5 million over the two-year grant cycle.

DISCUSSION: Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, discussed the three projects for which the City anticipates application to the I-395 Commuter Choice Grant Program. The projects will benefit drivers and commuters using the I-395 corridor. Commissioner McManus was strongly in favor of supporting the purchase of 10 electric buses because of the positive impact they will make.

Recommendation for the Transportation Commission to provide a letter of endorsement to City Council for the three I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant application requests for up to \$26.5 million over two years: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Manor

Recommendation was unanimous.

4. **ACTION ITEM: Consideration of a Letter on the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP)**
ISSUE: Consideration of a letter of support and feedback for the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission move to provide the draft letter of support and feedback to the ECCAP Task Force.

DISCUSSION: Megan Olenyik, Long Range Planner, discussed the feedback received from the Commission on the Draft Energy and Climate Change Action Plan. Commissioners asked clarifying questions and were in support of providing a letter of endorsement to the ECCAP Task Force.

Recommendation for the Transportation Commission to provide a letter of feedback and support on the draft ECCAP to the ECCAP Task Force: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Manor

Recommendation was unanimous.

5. **DISCUSSION ITEM: Draft 2023 Transportation Commission Work Plan**
ISSUE: Consideration of the Draft 2023 Workplan.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive the Draft 2023 Workplan and provide feedback.

DISCUSSION: Megan Olenyik, Long Range Planner, discussed the Draft 2023 Workplan with the Commission. Commissioners provided feedback on what they would like to see included in the draft workplan. There will be further discussion on the draft workplan at the next Commission meeting.

6. **ACTION ITEM: Consideration of Endorsement of FY24 DRPT State Aid Grant and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance Grant Applications**

ISSUE: Consideration of grant applications to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for the FY 2024 State Aid Grant Programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide an endorsement to City Council for the approval of DRPT FY 2024 State Aid and Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) Operating Assistance Grant applications.

DISCUSSION: Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, presented the details of the FY 2024 DRPT State Aid Grant and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance Grant Applications. Commissioners asked clarifying questions and were in support of endorsing the grant applications.

Recommendation for the Transportation Commission to provide a letter of endorsement to City Council for FY 2024 DRPT State Aid Program Grant Applications through DRPT and NVTC: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Manor
Recommendation was unanimous.

Commissioner updates

Commissioner Kane – The Duke Street in Motion group met in December. The next meeting is scheduled in February.

Commissioner McManus –The DASH Board of Directors did not meet in December. A complaint from the Citizens West group for railroad bridge signage is being heard by the City for consent and additional signage for safe pass under the railroad has been proposed.

Commissioner Marsh - The Potomac Yard Implementation Group met in-person in November but did not have a December meeting. The opening date for the Potomac Yard Metro is scheduled for May 23rd.

7. Items for Consent

A. Protected Bike Lane Considerations

8. Other Business

Update on light replacement on interstate/interchanges from VDOT

Adjournment

At 8:07 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2023

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3: CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSEMENT OF MWCOG GRANTS

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application for the Transportation-Land Use Connections (TLC) Program and the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) to support implementation of the Alexandria Mobility Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide an endorsement to City Council for the approval of the following FY 2024 grants applications to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments:

- *FY 2024 Transportation and Land Use Connections Program:* Up to \$80,000 in technical assistance to develop designs for corridor improvements on South Pickett Street between Duke Street and Edsall Road
- *FY 2024 Regional Roadway Safety Program:* Up to \$80,000 in technical assistance to evaluate lighting needs to enhance pedestrian safety in key areas.

BACKGROUND: MWCOG's TLC Program provides short-term consultant services to local jurisdictions for small planning and design projects that promote mixed-use, walkable communities and support a variety of transportation alternatives. MWCOG's RRSP provides short-term consultant services to assist with planning or preliminary engineering projects that address roadway safety issues and will lead to a reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes. Each program provides up to \$80,000 in consultant assistance for planning and preliminary design projects. If funded, project award would occur in Spring 2023, and projects would last from Fall 2023 to June 2024. Applications to FY 2024 TLC and RRSP are due March 3.

The Alexandria Mobility Plan calls for a "connected bicycle network of both on- and off-street facilities to benefit cyclists of all ages and abilities". In the City's planned bicycle network, South Pickett Street is designated as a future "enhanced bicycle corridor." In 2022, staff developed a [Complete Streets Five-Year Plan \(FY 2023-2027\)](#), which included a project to implement bicycle lanes on South Pickett Street between Duke Street and Edsall Road.

In 2017, the City adopted a Vision Zero Policy and Action Plan with the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2028. A 2022 Citywide Crash Analysis found that

approximately 25% of pedestrian crashes that occur at night result in fatal or severe injury. Roadway lighting has been identified by the Federal Highway Administration as a proven safety countermeasure.

DISCUSSION: The City proposes to request technical assistance through the MWCOG Transportation and Land Use Connections Program, and the Regional Roadway Safety Program.

MWCOG Transportation and Land Use Connections (TLC) Program

The City proposes to request technical assistance for multimodal corridor improvements on South Pickett Street between Duke Street and Edsall Road. South Pickett Street west of Edsall Road has existing bicycle lanes, and the Alexandria Mobility Plan calls for extending an “enhanced bicycle facility” to connect to Duke Street. This corridor provides access to high-density residential communities, commercial and retail uses, mixed uses, Armistead Boothe Park, Samuel Tucker Elementary School, and public transportation. South Pickett Street also connects to the future Duke Street Transitway, which will provide high-capacity transit to local destinations, including West End Alexandria (formerly Landmark Mall).

The project would include planning, community engagement, and conceptual design for corridor improvements on South Pickett Street to enhance mobility, access, safety, and comfort for all roadway users. The project would result in the selection of a preferred design alternative, which would then advance to detailed design.

This project would support the following strategies in the Alexandria Mobility Plan:

- Create a safe, well-maintained, and comfortable walking and biking environment.
- Build out a continuous, connected, and accessible bicycle network that enables people of all ages and abilities to move safely and comfortably.
- Build out a continuous, connected, and accessible pedestrian network that enables people of all ages and abilities to move safely and comfortably.
- Upgrade or install infrastructure that increases the accessibility of City streets and public spaces for people of all ages and abilities.

This project would address the following MWCOG Transportation Planning Board (TPB) priorities:

- *Multimodal Transportation Options:* The TLC Program seeks projects that support a variety of travel choices, particularly those that reduce dependence on driving. Such options include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit alternatives, options for people with disabilities, Safe Routes to School enhancements, and freight improvements.
- *Access for Low-Income and Minority Communities:* The TLC Program encourages applications focused on areas with high concentrations of low-income and minority populations.

MWCOG Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP)

The City proposes to request technical assistance to study lighting needs in key areas, such as areas with high pedestrian generators and areas with a history of pedestrian crashes during hours of darkness. The project will evaluate roadway lighting best practices, identify and

evaluate priority areas for lighting needs, and develop recommendations for lighting improvements. Recommendations are expected to be implemented through future safety projects.

This project supports the Vision Zero Action Plan, which was adopted by Council in 2017, and includes goals to build safer streets for everyone. This project would also support 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.

The projects would address the following TPB priorities:

- *Identifying and Designing Safety Countermeasures:* Projects that design countermeasures included in TPB Resolution R3-2021, which include, but are not limited to, leading pedestrian intervals, road safety audits, improved intersection geometry, lighting enhancements, and traffic signal timing improvements.
- *Understanding Safety Data:* Projects that analyze crash data to better understand roadway safety measures and identify appropriate countermeasures.
- *Safety Improvements for Low-Income and Minority Communities:* Projects that reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries in Equity Emphasis Areas.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Draft Letter of Support for FY 2024 MWCOG Grant Application



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 18, 2023

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2024 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Grant Applications

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its January 18, 2023 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 South Pickett Street between Edsall Road and Duke Street

Regional Roadway Safety Program:

- Up to \$80,000 to evaluate roadway lighting needs and develop lighting recommendations to enhance pedestrian safety in key areas

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 2024 Transportation and Land Use Connections and Regional Roadway Safety Programs.

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

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez



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

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
James Parajon, City Manager
Tarrence Moorer, Interim sDirector, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2023

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 – CONFIRM DECEMBER 2022 COMMISSION MEETING ENDORSEMENTS

ISSUE: Consideration of confirming recommendations made by members present at the December 2022 Transportation Commission meeting for three action items, but for which a quorum was not available:

- Providing a letter of endorsement to City Council for I-395 Commuter Choice Grant Applications
- Providing a letter of endorsement to City Council for FY24 Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) State Aid Grant and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance Grant Applications
- Providing a letter of support and feedback for the Draft Environmental Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP) to the ECCAP Task Force

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission vote to confirm the recommendations made by the members present at the December 2022 meeting.

BACKGROUND: The four members present at the December 2022 Transportation Commission meeting voted unanimously in favor of three action items presented at the meeting. However, because a quorum was not present, a vote with a quorum of Commissioners is needed to confirm the recommendations and move forward those actions. The Commissioners present voted in favor of:

1. Providing a letter of endorsement to City Council for I-395 Commuter Choice Grant Applications
2. Providing a letter of endorsement to City Council for FY24 Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) State Aid Grant and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance Grant Applications
3. Providing a letter of support and feedback for the Draft Environmental Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP) to the ECCAP Task Force

DISCUSSION: The docket memorandums for the three action items from the December 2022 Transportation Commission meeting are provided in Attachments 1-3.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: December 2022 Docket Item 3: Consideration of Endorsement of I-395 Commuter Choice Grant Applications

Attachment 2: December 2022 Docket Item 4: Consideration of Letter on Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP)

Action Item 3: December 2022 Docket Item 6: Consideration of Endorsement of FY24 DRPT State Aid Grant and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance Grant Applications

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2022

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

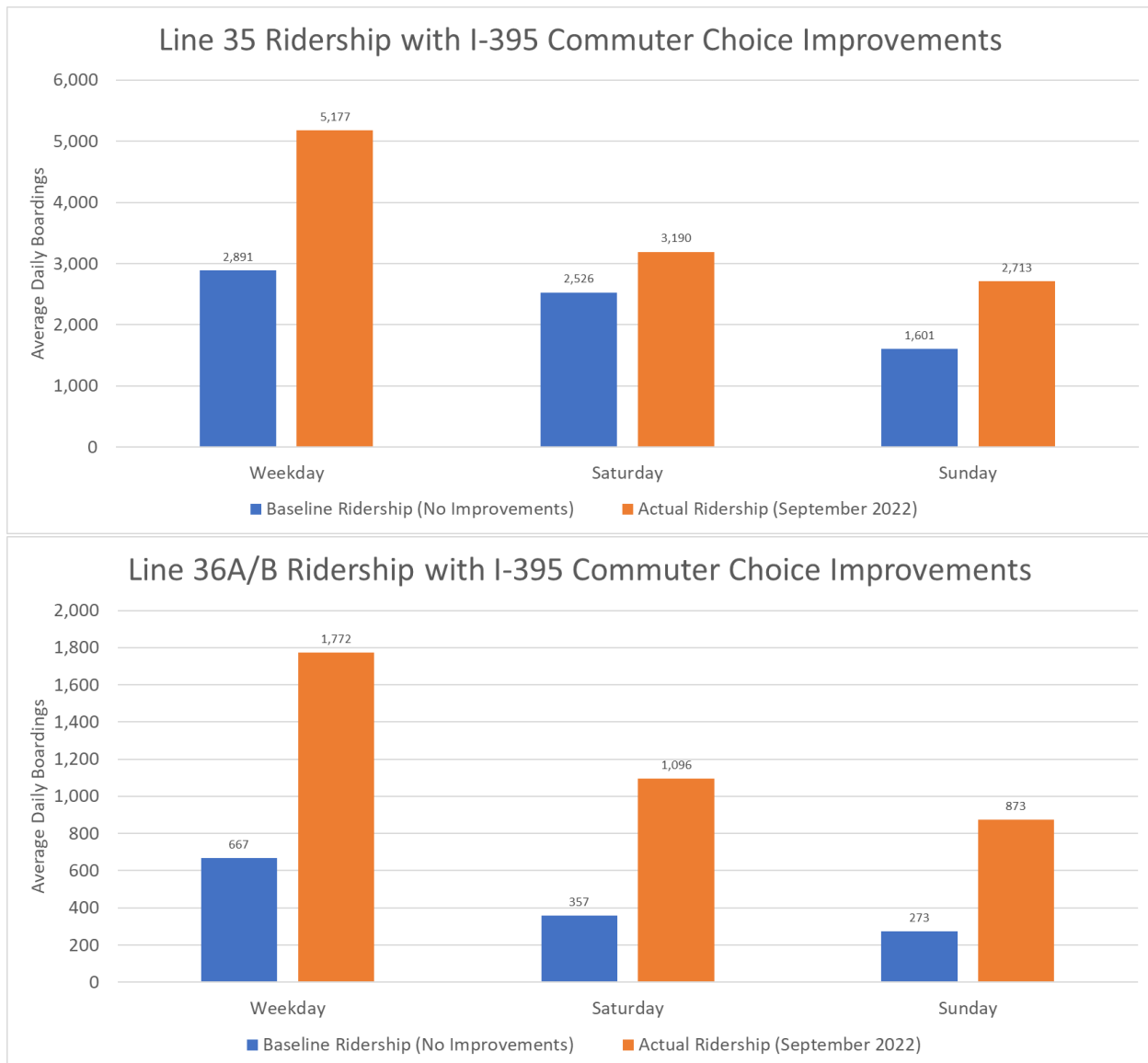
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 – I-395/95 COMMUTER CHOICE GRANT PROGRAM
FUNDING REQUEST

ISSUE: Consideration of a letter of support for grant applications from DASH and the City of Alexandria for the FY 2024–2025 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission adopt the Letter of Support (Attachment 1) for the three (3) I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant applications for up to \$26.5 million over the two-year grant cycle.

BACKGROUND: The purpose of the Commuter Choice program is to provide funding support for transportation projects that maximize person throughput in the I-395/95 corridor and improve mobility options. The program is managed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), which oversee the distribution of roughly \$17 million in annual funding from I-395/95 Express Lane toll revenues.

In the first four years of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program, DASH and the City have been awarded more than \$14 million in funding for two bus service enhancement projects on Line 35 and Line 36A/B. Funding increased the service frequency and hours of operation. As a result of these service improvements, ridership on these routes has increased dramatically on both weekdays and weekends. The graphs below display a comparison between baseline ridership levels without the I-395 Commuter Choice improvements and the actual daily ridership levels with the service improvements.



DISCUSSION: Staff propose to submit three applications for the FY 2024 – FY 2025 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program. Two of the applications are “continuation” grant applications that will enable DASH to continue to operate the enhancements in the two corridors that are currently receiving funding. The third project is a capital project that would enable DASH to purchase 100% electric buses to provide additional passenger capacity on Line 35 while also promoting local and regional goals for sustainability and environmental justice. The following projects are being submitted for funding and are listed in recommended order of priority:

Project 1 – Enhanced Bus Service from Van Dorn Metro to Pentagon (Line 35) –\$7,500,000

Project 1 is the proposed priority project (as it was in the first two rounds) and would fund the continuation of the service expansions for DASH “Line 35”, which operates parallel to I-395 in West Alexandria (Attachment 3) and runs every 10 minutes all-day on weekdays and every 15 minutes all-day on weekends.

Project 2 – Enhanced Bus Service from Mark Center to Potomac Yard (Line 36) - \$4,000,000

Project 2 is the second priority project and would fund the continuation of the service expansions for DASH “Line 36A/B”, which operates parallel to I-395 in West Alexandria, Parkfairfax, Arlandria and Potomac Yard (Attachment 3) and runs every 15 minutes all-day, seven days per week.

Project 3 – Bus Purchases for Additional Capacity on West End – Up to \$15,000,000

Project 3 seeks up to \$15,000,000 in funding for DASH to purchase ten large 100% electric buses to support the operation of Line 35. Due to high ridership demand (upwards of 5,000 passengers per day), many Line 35 weekday trips operate with 35-foot buses that are at or above capacity with many passengers standing or, in some cases, being passed up because the bus is too full. These 40-foot and 60-foot buses to provide additional capacity on the busiest bus route in the DASH system while making the service more attractive with new, accessible 100% electric buses.

FISCAL IMPACT: The City is applying for a combined total of up to \$26,500,000 in grant funding, and since there is no local match requirement, there are no fiscal impacts associated with the application or award of I-395/95 Commuter Choice funds. However, if the City does not receive the requested funding for the first two projects to maintain the current Line 35 or 36A/B improvements DASH would not be able to operate the enhanced service which would amount to a service reduction with significant customer impact.

For Project 3, the purchase of ten electric buses could potentially provide an operation and maintenance cost savings of \$1.5 million over their life compared to clean diesel buses. The purchase of these buses with grant funds could offset City dollars needed to replace existing buses that will meet their useful life in FY24.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: DRAFT Endorsement Letter to Council



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

www.alexandriava.gov

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

December 21, 2022

Re: Endorsement of Application for FY24-FY25 I-395/95 NVTC Commuter Choice Grant

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its December 21, 2022, meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the City's proposed I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant applications. The proposals seek a total of up to \$26,500,000 over a two-year period for the continuation of service enhancements on two DASH routes in the new 2022 Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan that provide important transit connections for the West End, and the purchase of 10 electric buses for additional bus capacity on Line 35.

The proposed top priority project, "DASH West End – Pentagon Bus Service Enhancements", would allow DASH to continue to provide weekday, Saturday, and Sunday service enhancements for the new DASH "Line 35". This route provides frequent, all-day service in West Alexandria from the Van Dorn Metro to the Pentagon via Beauregard Street. This project will continue to build on major recent ridership growth in West Alexandria along the planned West End Transitway corridor, maintain a potential future source of operations funding for the transitway, and support the implementation of the 2022 ATV Plan. Total project cost for FY 2024 – 2025 is roughly \$7,500,000.

The second-priority project, "DASH West End – Potomac Yard Bus Service Enhancements", proposes to continue the weekday, Saturday, and Sunday service enhancements for "Line 36". "Line 36" provides service to key destinations along the I-395 corridor including the Mark Center, Shirlington, Arlandria, and the future Potomac Yard Metro Station. The total two-year cost of the project is \$4,000,000.

The third priority project, "DASH Bus Purchases for Additional Capacity from West End to Pentagon" would fund the purchase of 10 new, large 100% electric buses that would be used to provide additional passenger capacity along the Line 35 corridor in West Alexandria. Due to major ridership increases, Line 35 sees frequent crowding on buses that could be mitigated with the purchase of additional 40- and 60-foot buses. The total funding request for this project is up to \$15,000,000.

The Commission recommends that Council support these grant requests.

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
James F. Parajon, City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Josh Baker, General Manager, DASH

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2022

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 – CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER ON THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

ISSUE: Consideration of a letter of support and feedback for the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission move to provide the draft letter of support and feedback to the ECCAP Task Force.

BACKGROUND: At the November 16 Transportation Commission meeting, the Commission received an update on the [EECAP](#) including the purpose and background of the project, community engagement efforts, and transportation specific goals and strategies.

DISCUSSION: Members of the Commission indicated general support for and shared their feedback on the ECCAP. Commissioners indicated that they would like the final version of the ECCAP to include an updated 2021 data point for greenhouse gas emissions trends and suggested annual updates would help the City to better track progress and respond more efficiently to changing trends. Commissioners highlighted the importance of local level actions to address climate change. A draft letter providing feedback and support for the draft ECCAP is provided in **Attachment 1**.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Draft ECCAP Letter of Support and Feedback



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Mary Harris and Marian Pegram, Co-Chairs
EECAP Task Force

December 21, 2022

Re: Support and feedback for the Draft Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (EECAP)

Dear Chairs Harris and Pegram,

At the November 16 Transportation Commission meeting, Bill Eger, Energy Manager, updated the Commission on the draft EECAP including the purpose and background of the plan, engagement efforts to date, an overview of the draft plan, and a focus on the transportation trends and goals laid out in the plan.

As expressed at the meeting, Commissioners indicated that they would like the final version of the ECCAP to include an updated 2021 data point for greenhouse gas emissions trends. The Commission feels that there would be additional value in providing annual updates, recognizing that these would be more high-level and less precise than the more thorough three-year updates. Providing yearly updates would help the City to better track progress and respond more efficiently to changing trends, which is particularly important at this moment as climate change becomes more dire and the rate of change escalates.

The Commission wants to commend the efforts of the ECCAP task force and share support for this plan, recognizing the importance of local policy and efforts in addressing climate change. With that in mind, the Transportation Commission recognizes that the ECCAP's focus on what we can do at a local level, especially relating to transportation goals such as reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips and replacing internal combustion engine trips with electric vehicle trips, is particularly important.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Yon Lambert, Acting Deputy City Manager and Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Bill Eger, Energy Manager, General Services
Christopher Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief, T&ES
Megan Oleynik, Urban Planner, T&ES

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2021

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #6 - FY 2024 DRPT STATE AID GRANT AND COMMUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT

ISSUE: Consideration of grant applications to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for the FY 2024 State Aid Grant Programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide an endorsement to City Council for the approval of DRPT FY 2024 State Aid and CAP Operating Assistance Grant applications.

BACKGROUND: The City applies annually to the Virginia DRPT for grant funds that support transit operating assistance and capital expenses for DASH, Metro and DOT/Paratransit and commuter outreach programs. Both 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. DASH submits applications annually for the demonstration project assistance and an intern.

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:

Operating Assistance State Aid Grant

City of Alexandria Transit Operating Assistance - (Up to \$34,000,000): Operating assistance to jurisdictions is allocated based on system size and system performance, for both DASH and DOT paratransit. Operating costs have increased over past years due to labor and fuel costs. The

amount the Commonwealth can provide in operating assistance varies annually but has typically been between 20-30%.

Capital Assistance State Aid Grant

DASH Bus Replacement – (Up to \$20,000,000) The Capital Assistance Program provides a reimbursement to the City for a portion of money spent on the purchase of transit capital assets. In FY24, the City will purchase replacement buses and batteries that will help DASH maintain its State of Good Repair and a safe and reliable bus fleet by replacing buses that have reached the end of their 12-year useful life cycle. 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.

Commuter Assistance Program

GO Alex – (Up to \$331,300) The Commuter Assistance Program grant provides a reimbursement to the City for operating dollars spent on the GO Alex programming and staffing. These funds will maintain current staffing and fund future programming such as the opening of the Potomac Yard Metrorail station and Capital Bikeshare. A 20% local match is required.

Demonstration Project Assistance Program

Electric Bus Charge, Management System Pilot – (Up to \$235,000) This pilot would allow DASH to monitor electric bus charging status of individual buses and actively manage the distributing of electrical charging across multiple charging stations to better align with real-time service needs. DASH would be the first transit agency in the state to deploy this type of platform. A 20% local match is required.

Automated Wheelchair Securement Pilot – (Up to \$80,000) This grant would provide funding to DASH to install a state-of-the-art automated wheelchair securement system on up to five DASH buses by allowing passengers with mobility devices to safely secure themselves without operator involvement. This would reduce potential liability, improve travel times and reliability. Lastly, this would eliminate close contact between operators and passengers. A 20% local match is required.

Public Transportation Workforce Development Program

Public Transit Intern – (Up to \$55,000) This grant will allow DASH to continue funding one Planning Intern position through FY 2024 to gain valuable experience in the public transportation industry. A 20% local match is required.

If approved by DRPT, funds would require formal adoption by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and incorporation into the state's Six Year Program in spring 2023. Funds would be available on or after July 1, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT: State Aid Operating Assistance funds provided by DRPT to jurisdictions do not require a local match or pose a negative fiscal impact. Historically, State Aid has typically provided a 20-29% reimbursement, and Capital Aid has typically provided an 65-68% reimbursement. The CAP, Demonstration Projects and Public Transportation Workforce

Development Programs require a 20% match of \$66,260, \$63,000 and \$11,000 respectively, which will be considered during the FY 2024 budget development process. If the local match were to be removed from the planned FY 2024 Operating Budget, the City may withdraw or otherwise amend the grant application.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: DRAFT Transportation Commission 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
December 21, 2022

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2024 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 21, 2022, meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff recommended funded requests through five DRPT grant programs:

DRPT Operating Assistance

- Up to \$34 million to offset the City's operating expenses for FY 2024 and provide greater support for DASH

DRPT Capital Assistance

- Up to \$20 million to purchase replacement buses and batteries to maintain the DASH fleet in a State of Good repair

Commuter Assistance Program

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

Demonstration Project Assistance Program

- Up to \$235,000 for an Electric Bus Charge Management System Pilot
- Up to \$80,000 for an Automated Wheelchair Securement Pilot

Demonstration Project Assistance Program

- Up to \$235,000 for an Electric Bus Charge Management System Pilot
- Up to \$80,000 for an Automated Wheelchair Securement Pilot

Public Transportation Workforce Development Program

- Up to \$55,000 to fund a DASH planning intern

These requests support goals of 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 2024 DRPT Grant request formulated to procure DRPT operating and capital funds and the FY 2023 Commuter Assistance Program grant request.

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

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2023

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5 – DRAFT 2023 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WORKPLAN

ISSUE: Consideration of the Draft 2023 Workplan.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive the Draft 2023 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 2023 Workplan developed by staff and with input from Commissioners at the December 22 meeting incorporated is provided in Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment 1: Draft 2023 Transportation Commission Workplan

2023 DRAFT Transportation Commission Work Plan

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
								BREAK				
City Planning Studies												
Duke Street Traffic Mitigation Projects												
Interdepartmental Long Range Work Plan												
COVID-19 Recovery Transportation Data Update												
Electric Vehicle Readiness Strategy Implementation												
Repaving Update												
West End Transitway												
Duke Street In Motion												
Transportation Funding												
FY2022-2031 City Budget												
NVTA 70% Funds												
CMAQ/RSTP Grant												
DRPT Transit Assistance and CAP grants												
FTA Grants												
Federal Grants (as needed)												
Transportation Alternatives Program												
VDOT Revenue Sharing Grant												
WMCOG Technical Assistance Grants												
Transportation Programs												
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												
DASH Bus												
Smart Mobility / Parking Technologies												
Regional Projects / Plans												
State Legislative Process												
Transforming Rail												
VDOT I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study												
Blue Orange Silver Line Study (WMATA)												
Bus Transformation Project (WMATA)												
WMATA Budget												

Discussion Item
 Action Item
 Consent Item

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2023

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: CHRISTOPHER ZIEMANN, DIVISION CHIEF, TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #8 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. No Turn on Reds Proposed onto Patrick and Henry Streets

Staff is proposing to implement new “No Turn on Red” (NTOR) restrictions for select streets turning onto Patrick and Henry Streets. Both streets were identified as high crash corridors in the Vision Zero Action Plan. NTOR strategies have been effective nationwide at reducing crashes, especially ones involving pedestrians.

The No Turn on Red restrictions are proposed at the following intersections with North and South Patrick and Henry Streets:

- Wythe Street
- Oronoco Street
- Princess Street
- Queen Street
- Montgomery Street
- Wythe Street
- Pendleton Street
- Oronoco Street
- Princess Street
- Cameron Street

Implementation of the NTOR restrictions is planned for Spring 2023.

Staff is accepting public comment on the proposed NTOR restrictions through February 6, 2022. Email comments to Complete Streets Coordinator, Bryan Hayes (Bryan.Hayes@AlexandriaVA.gov).

More information on the proposed NTOR restrictions is available at the [Vision Zero website](#).

B. Updates to the Complete Streets and Vision Zero Websites

Staff have revamped the [Complete Streets](#), [Safe Routes to School](#), and [Vision Zero](#) websites to make the information provided on these programs easier to find and understand. Feel free to explore and share.

C. Duke Street in Motion

At their December meeting, the Duke Street Transitway Advisory Group gave direction to the Project Team to advance the following options for further design and analysis for near-term implementation:

- Segment 1 (Ripley to Jordan): Center Running and Curb Running
- Segment 2A (Jordan to Wheeler): Hybrid and Mixed Traffic
- Segment 2B (Wheeler to Roth): Bidirectional Bus Lane and Mixed Traffic
- Segment 3: Center Running and Curb Running

Center Running will still be considered in the long-term for Segment 2.

This winter, staff is conducting targeted outreach to businesses, civic associations and other groups, including those groups identified as underrepresented during Phase I and II engagement efforts. The goal of this outreach is to build awareness and get more feedback on the project. This spring, the project team will present a more detailed analysis of the selected busway options to the community, and that information will ultimately inform the preferred concept for the corridor.

D. WMATA Updates

FY 2024 Budget

On December 8, 2022, the GM/CEO of WMATA presented the proposed FY 2024 Budget and FY 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Board consideration. On January 12, the WMATA Finance Committee voted on the [public docket](#) for the budget for approval by the full board on January 26. Public hearings will be held in March. The Transportation Commission can submit a letter during the public comment period at the February meeting.

The FY 2024 Proposed Operating Budget includes revenue of \$509 million, expenses of \$2,322 million, total subsidy of \$1,252 million, and \$561 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) relief funding.

The FY 2024 operating budget gap of \$185 million will be closed by a combination of revenue increases, expense reductions and federal funding assistance, including both ARPA

funding and increased Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Federal Formula Funding for Maintenance.

The proposed operating budget increases bus and rail service, simplifies fares, launches the Better Bus Network Redesign, funds crisis intervention specialists, and fully-funds Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) positions.

Key rail service changes impacting Alexandria include Yellow Line trains every 6 min all day (an increase from 10 minutes budgeted in FY23 during peak periods and 12 minutes during off-peak, with 15 minute actual frequencies as of August 2022 due to 7000 Series train issues) and Yellow Line turning around at Mt Vernon Square.

No bus services changes impacting Alexandria were proposed in the December 8, 2022 budget, but an amendment was made at the January 12 Finance Committee meeting to replace 11C service with 11Y service – with an option for reinstating the line at a slightly reduced frequency and with fewer trips per day that was provided when the 11Y service was running to better align with demand. The full bus network redesign is anticipated to be implemented in FY25, which may result in more changes to routes next fiscal year.

Another major component of this budget is a simplification of the fare structure, including:

- Consolidated peak/off-peak fares
- Max fare increase to \$6.50; Reduced base fare of \$2 to match bus fare.
- Introduction of a low income fare program administered by Metro.

The proposed capital budget funds zero emission buses and electrification of the Northern and Bladensburg bus garages, opens the new Potomac Yard Station, and modernizes customer wayfinding, among other capital improvements.

Strategic Transformation Project

Metro is working on '[Your Metro, The Way Forward](#)' to serve as a Strategic Transformation Plan to guide Metro strategy and decision making during this post-pandemic period. Periodic strategic plans are also a funding requirement for Metro by the Virginia General Assembly.

The Plan was developed by the Board of Directors and management with input from Metro's customers, staff, and stakeholders. A public hearing will be held February 9th at the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Board Room, 2300 Wilson Blvd at 6:30pm and virtually.

The Plan's goals and objectives are generally in line with the interests of Alexandria and our regional partners for service excellence, talented teams, regional opportunity and partnership, and sustainability.