



Transportation Commission Meeting

September 20, 2023

7:00PM

City Council Workroom - City Hall

301 King Street

AGENDA

1. Public Comment (Not to exceed 10 min)
2. Introduce New Members
3. Minutes of the June 21, 2023 meeting
4. **Discussion Item:** 2024 State Legislative Process
5. **Action Item:** Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program Grant
6. **Action Item:** FY 2025 Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (VHSIP)
7. **Action Item:** FTA Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Grant
8. Commissioner Updates
9. Items for Consent
 - A. New T&ES Director
 - B. Automated Speed Enforcement
 - C. Public Input Opportunities for Corridor Projects
 - D. Vision Zero and Complete Streets Work Plans Posted
 - E. King Street & Commonwealth Avenue Streetscape & Rail Projects
 - F. King Street - Bradlee Safety and Mobility Enhancements
 - G. DASH Annual Ridership Record
 - H. NVT A 70% Funds – Support for Shirlington Bus Center
 - I. WMATA Blue Orange Silver Study
 - J. VDOT I-495 Express Lane Study
 - K. Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) Alexandria Projects Update
10. Chair/Vice Chair Election
11. 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: October 18, 2023

The September 20, meeting of the Transportation Commission is being held at 7:00PM the City Council Workroom on the second floor of City Hall (301 King Street) 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_6tlZ3LxcRUqzPHvoRTJjyg

Or by phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 976 5511 6464

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 09/20/2023 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

June 21, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Oscar Gonzalez, Vice Chair Bruce Marsh, Commissioner Melissa McMahan, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner James Maslanka, Commissioner Matthew McManus, Commissioner Murat Omay, Commissioner Oleksandr Faryga, Councilman John Chapman (virtually), Karl Bach (representative for Councilman Kirk McPike).

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann – Transportation Planning Division Chief, Jennifer Monaco – Transportation Planning Division, Sharese Thomas – Transportation Planning Division.

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

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

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

1. Public Comment Period

Jim Moran -President of Taylor Run Civic Association expressed concerns about the Duke Street in Motion plan specifically the West Taylor Run aspect of the project. He requested that an impact study be done.

Annette Smith – a Quaker Hill resident expressed concerns about the impact of the Duke Street in Motion project.

Motion to close public comment period: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner McMahan

2. May Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes: Commissioner Omay

Second: Commissioner McMahan

Motion carries unanimously.

3. ACTION ITEM: Duke Street in Motion Advisor Group Recommendations

ISSUE: Consideration of a letter to Council to endorse the Duke Street Transitway Advisory Group Recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission endorse the Duke Street Transitway Advisory Group's recommendation to Council for a near-term plan and long-term vision for the corridor.

DISCUSSION: Jennifer Monaco, T&ES, presented the recommendations from the Duke Street Advisory Group. She presented a brief overview of the Advisory Group's process in selecting the concept that aligned closely with the project's Vision and Guiding Principles. Commissioners asked clarifying questions and provided feedback on the Advisory Group's recommendation. Commissioners were in support of the Advisory's recommendations.

Motion for the Transportation Commission to endorse the Duke Street Transitway Advisory Group recommendation letter: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner McMahon

Motion carries unanimously.

4. Commissioner updates

Commissioner Faryga – The Environmental Policy Commission endorsed a letter of support for the Duke Street Transitway Advisory Group’s recommendation for the Duke Street in Motion project.

Commissioner Kane – The Traffic & Parking Board removed parking spaces on Mount Vernon Avenue by an apartment complex to make it safer. The next Traffic & Parking Board meeting is June 26.

Commissioner Maslanka – Participated in a session on June 13, at the German Embassy on the role of data in Transportation from the perspective of Germans and Americans. He also asked staff to discuss the City’s Bike Parking at Transit program.

Commissioner McMahon- The Planning Commission had hearings on June 6 and 22.

Commissioner McManus- Has been appointed to the DASH Advisory Committee. DASH was awarded \$14 million for improvements from the I-395 Corridor Commuter Choice grant program. Commissioner McManus asked about the status of the letter of support from the Mayor regarding bus line 8W.

Commissioner Omay- At the DASH Board Meeting on June 18, there was discussion on the WMATA Better Bus Network and the first draft of the DASH Strategic Plan was presented.

Councilman Chapman- Council will be meeting on June 27, to discuss the Duke Street in Motion project recommendation.

5. Items Removed from Consent for Discussion

- Potomac Avenue and East Glebe Road
- Jurisdiction of noise issues at Airports.

6. Other Business

July Meeting

Pavement Index for Trails

Commissioner’s Marsh’s last meeting

7. Adjournment

At 8:30 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.

*City of Alexandria,
Virginia*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 –STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ISSUE: The City is requesting legislative priorities from Boards and Commissions.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide input verbally through this meeting to Legislative Coordinator on legislative priorities.

BACKGROUND: Every year, the Transportation Commission receives a request for State legislative priorities. For reference, last year the Transportation Commission articulated the following 2023 legislative priorities:

1. Protect, preserve, and align transportation funding sources specifically to support public transportation and pedestrian and bicycle projects, and identify and commit to new long-term funding sources appropriate to replace repealed dedicated transportation-supportive taxes.
2. Expand automated speed and red-light enforcement allowances by jurisdictions.
3. Allow safety stops for bicycles.
4. Pursue Vision Zero goals specifically protecting vulnerable road users and increasing funding to achieve safety goals.

DISCUSSION: The 2024 Virginia Legislative Session will be a long session. It will begin January 10 and is scheduled to last 60 days.

The City’s legislative coordinator is preparing a draft legislative package and is asking Boards and Commissions to identify any legislative proposals to recommend for inclusion in the City’s package by October 6.

For this year’s legislative session:

- Proposals should be focused on needs rather than wants and should advance work that is already underway (deliver a service more efficiently, implement a project more quickly, etc).

- The Package will be crafted around the [City Council Priorities](#) – proposals should fall within and support efforts to achieve the goals set forth in these Priorities.
- Proposals should be as actionable as possible.
- If proposals are scalable in any way, indicate how they could be scaled up or down, depending on the political environment, budget, or other unknown variables.
- Groups that submit more than one proposal should prioritize them in some way.
- The Legislative Package will be broken out into Legislative Principles and Legislative Priorities. For reference, the 2023 Legislative Package is available [here](#).

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSON

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 5 – CONSIDERAITON OF ENDORSEMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM GRANT

ISSUE: Endorsement of a grant application for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) FY 2025-2026 Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission review and endorse staff's grant application for the FY 2025-2026 TA program.

BACKGROUND: The TA program provides federal funding to improve non-motorized transportation, enhance the public's travel experience, revitalize communities, and improve quality of life. Eligible projects include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, converting abandoned railroad corridors to trails, systems to improve safety for non-drivers, restoration of historic transportation structures, and Safe Routes to School projects.

TA grants are awarded every two years. Applications submitted this year will be considered for funding in FY 2025-2026.

DISCUSSION: For the FY 2025-2026 application cycle, the maximum federal request is \$2.5 million per project with a local match contribution of 20%. Staff recommends applying to fund two projects.

Safe Routes to School – Crossing Improvements Near Schools (\$2,000,000)

This project would design and construct curb extensions, pedestrian refuge areas, and crosswalk improvements at up to seven intersections near as many as four elementary and K-8 schools throughout Alexandria. These infrastructure improvements, recommended in the 2017 Safe Routes to School Walk Audit reports, would create safer crossing opportunities for school children and families and encourage more students to walk to school. The schools in this application include Mount Vernon Community School, Patrick Henry K-8 School, Samuel Tucker Elementary School and Jefferson-Houston K-8 School.

The Safe Routes to School project is scalable, and should the City be awarded less than the full amount, the locations would be prioritized based on available funding and safety impact. The

match for the SRTS Crossing Improvements Near Schools application would be funded via existing Safe Routes to School funds in the FY 2024 Approved Budget.

Slaters Lane Sidewalk and Intersection Improvements (\$1,500,000)

This project would design and install improvements at the intersection of Richmond Highway (Route 1) and Slaters Lane to discourage illegal turns, slow vehicle turns, shorten pedestrian crossing distance, and add a missing link of sidewalk on the north side of Slaters Lane.

For the Slaters Lane Sidewalk and Intersection Improvements project, staff is requesting for authority to apply for up to \$1.5 million for this project. However, staff is working with VDOT and believes the actual project cost could be less. Should the full amount be required, the 20% local match of \$300,00 over two years would be funded by NVTAs 30% revenue or other local revenue, such as GoAlex funds and will be determined through the FY 2025 budget process.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Draft Endorsement Letter to City Council for the application to Virginia's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) FY 2025-2026 Program



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

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

September 20, 2023

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for the FY 2025-2026 Transportation Alternatives Set-Side (TA) Program**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its September 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse two grant applications for funding of up to \$4,000,000 through the FY 2025-2026 Transportation Alternatives Set-Side (TA) Program.

The Transportation Commission supports staff's proposal to request funding for two projects. The first, to fund the design and construction of crossing improvements that were identified in Safe Routes to School (SRTS) walk audits. The second, to fund design and construction of improvements on Slaters Lane between the intersection of Richmond Highway (Route 1) and Powhatan Street.

These projects support the Vision Zero Action Plan strategy to build safer streets for everyone and accelerate safety improvements as part of the City's Safe Routes to School Program.

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,

Melissa McMahon
Interim Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Adriana Castaneda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, T&ES
Philippe Simon, Grants Coordinator, T&ES

DRAFT

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #6– CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSEMENT OF THE FY 2025 VIRGINIA HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (VHSIP) SYSTEMIC SAFETY FUNDING PROGRAM

ISSUE: Endorsement of a grant application for the FY 2025 VHSIP Systemic Safety Funding Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission review and endorse staff's grant application for the FY 2025 VHSIP Systemic Safety Funding Program.

BACKGROUND: The VHSIP has announced an opportunity to apply for VHSIP Systemic Safety Funding for localities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Program has pre-approved six systemic initiatives for which localities are encouraged to apply. The City of Alexandria is focusing on the specific criteria that supports safety enhancement at all its T- intersections. The VHSIP notified that localities may apply for funding for systemic treatments other than those that are pre-approved and those will be evaluated based on their benefit-cost ratio, among other factors.

DISCUSSION: The proposed VHSIP grant will support the implementation of systemic safety measures at T-Intersections in the City of Alexandria. Staff is currently working to inventory all the signalized T- intersections upon which the level of applying the safety measures will be determined to select specific intersections. Once this is complete, staff will refine the specific treatments for each intersection based on an inventory of existing and needed upgrades, but the grant would include the following type of activities in the project application that would be applied at signalized T- intersections City wide:

- Structural upgrades that include enhancements to the signal structure to increase structural loading capacity.
- Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPI)
- Higher version traffic controllers to support LPIs
- No Turn on Red Signage
- Audible push buttons

- Smart Detection devices
- Intersection signage and signal upgrade
- High-visibility, dynamic signage
- High Visibility Backplates for the traffic signal heads

Current cost estimates indicate that these upgrades, including design and construction will cost up to \$2,000,000. The project is scalable, and intersections would be prioritized based on safety and need.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Draft Endorsement Letter to City Council for the application for the FY 2025 VHSIP Systemic Safety Funding Program

Attachment 1



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

September 20, 2023

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for the FY 2025 Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (VHSIP) Systemic Safety Funding Program**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its September 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse a grant application for funding of \$2,000,000 through the FY 2025 VHSIP Systemic Safety Funding Program from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to support systemic safety measures at all the T-Intersections.

The Transportation Commission supports staff's proposal to request funding to implement signal upgrades at T-Intersections citywide to improve safety for all users.

This project supports the Vision Zero Action Plan strategy to implement systemic safety improvements. It also supports 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 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,

Melissa McMahan
Interim Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Adriana Castaneda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Bob Garbacz, Division Chief, T&ES
Maha Gilini, Civil Engineer, T&ES
Philippe Simon, Grants Coordinator, T&ES

DRAFT

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #7 – CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSEMENT OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE FY 2023 TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PILOT GRANT PROGRAM

ISSUE: Should the City seek grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to advance transit-oriented development planning in the Duke Street Corridor?

RECOMMENDATION: That Transportation Commission provide a letter of endorsement to City Council to commit to the use of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds for the local match of up to \$150,000 and approve the submission of up to \$750,000 in federal funding through the Transit-Oriented Development Planning grant programs.

BACKGROUND: Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program is a competitive pilot program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to provide funding to communities to integrate land use and transportation planning on transit corridors. The FTA will prioritize projects that will:

1. Renew transit systems;
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from public transportation;
3. Advance racial equity by removing transportation related disparities to all populations within a project area and increase equitable access to project benefits;
4. Maintain and create good paying jobs with a free and fair choice to join a union; and
5. Connect communities by increasing access to affordable transportation options.

Grant applications are evaluated by the DOT and FTA. Considerations include enhancing economic development and ridership, facilitating multimodal connectivity and accessibility, increasing access to transit hubs for pedestrians and cyclists, enabling mixed-use development, encouraging affordable housing particularly in areas with high incidence rates of homelessness, and identifying infrastructure needs and private sector partnerships. Projects must be consistent

with the Justice40 initiative and must have a minimum award value of \$250,000 and a maximum award value of \$2 million.

DISCUSSION: In May 2023, the City approved the FY 2024-2025 Long-Range Planning Work Program identifying the Duke Street Small Area Plan as the next long range plan the City will undertake, scheduled to begin mid-2024. The land use plan for the Duke Street area was last comprehensively updated in 1992. The proposed planning effort will comprehensively analyze and update land use for the areas adjacent to the planned Duke Street bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor to reflect current City policy related to housing affordability, equity, mobility, and open space, and integrate the recommendations from the recently completed transit planning process for the corridor, also known as *Duke Street in Motion*. The Plan will update current land use practices to meet the area's need for affordable housing and equitable access to reliable, frequent public transportation, job opportunities, and community amenities.

Specifically, the proposed TOD grant application will support the Duke Street planning process with technical assistance for a land use and housing analysis, economic analysis, infrastructure and transportation studies, open space planning, urban design, and sustainability review. The grant will also support community engagement and outreach for the Plan, developing and implementing engagement strategies to ensure that stakeholders have a voice in shaping the future of the corridor. Robust engagement will be conducted in multiple languages and through a variety of in-person and online strategies to meet the community where they are in ways that are simple, accessible, and meaningful.

Led by the Department of Planning and Zoning, the planning process will feature interdepartmental collaboration among the Departments of Transportation and Environmental Services, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, the Office of Housing, DASH, and others.

If awarded the grant, a 20% local cost share will be required. In the Capital Improvement Program budget, the City Council allocated \$250,000 for planning and development studies to be allocated to the upcoming Duke Street planning process. These funds will be used for the local cost share. The City will demonstrate the availability of the full required cost share to support the grant application.

The maximum project request will be \$750,000, but staff will continue to refine the project budget and final grant request based on the grant criteria and the City's needs for the planning process.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Draft Endorsement Letter to City Council for the application to the U.S. DOT FTA Transit-Oriented Development Planning grant program.



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov
703.746.4025

Phone:

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

September 20, 2023

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for the FY 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program application**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its September 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the City of Alexandria's 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program application. Consistent with the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan, the proposed application will advance transit-oriented development planning in the Duke Street Corridor of Alexandria.

The City is a leader in advancing and expanding equitable transportation access and providing new methods for guideway and transit project corridors. This grant would provide funding to integrate land use and transportation planning. In June 2023, City Council approved the concept design for the Duke Street Transitway. That same month, the City approved the FY 2024-2025 Long-Range Planning Work Program, identifying the Duke Street Corridor Plan as the next Comprehensive Plan the City will undertake, scheduled to begin mid-2024. This planning effort represents an opportunity to promote equity and sustainability through the creation and retention of affordable housing and mixed-use development near transit and increased street and bicycle-network connections.

The proposed planning effort will comprehensively analyze and update land use for the areas adjacent to the planned Duke Street bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor to reflect current City policy and priorities related to housing affordability, equity, sustainability, and mobility while leveraging transit-oriented development principles, such as walkability, variety of uses, and transit-supportive density, among others. The planning effort will continue to integrate recommendations from the recently completed transit planning process for the corridor.

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

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

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon
Interim Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

CC: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Jeffrey Farmer, Deputy Director, Department of Planning & Zoning
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Carrie Beach, Division Chief of Neighborhood Planning, Dept. of Planning & Zoning
Andra Schmitt, Urban Planner 1, Department of Planning & Zoning
Megan Oleynik, Transportation Planning, T&ES

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #9 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. New T&ES Director

Adriana Castañeda has been appointed to lead the City’s Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES). Adriana joins the organization from the City of Tracy, California, where she oversaw housing, transit, airport, and economic development services as the Director of Mobility and Housing. Previously Castañeda served the City of Dallas, Texas as its Director of Bond, and Construction Management, where she oversaw the capital infrastructure activities of nearly 200 staff and a \$23 million operating budget.

As Director of T&ES, Adriana will be responsible for transportation systems and infrastructure, emergency weather planning, and refuse collections for the city. She was selected following a months-long national recruitment search where more than 60 industry experts applied to lead the department. Adriana holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology, Law, and Society from the University of California, Irvine, and a Master of Public Administration from San Diego State University.

B. Automated Speed Enforcement

This school year, the City launched its first speed camera program in the following select school zones:

- **Francis Hammond Middle School** (Seminary Road, between Kenmore Avenue and North Jordan Street)
- **John Adams Elementary School and Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School** (North Beauregard Street, between North Highview Lane and Reading Avenue)
- **George Washington Middle School** (Mount Vernon Avenue, between Braddock Road and Luray Avenue)

A multi-departmental working group, including staff from the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria City Public Schools, and the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services, collaborated closely on selecting these locations. Staff selected the locations using a data-driven process that considered factors such as crash history, traffic volumes, vehicle speeds, and age and number of students.

An initial warning period was conducted in June at the end of the 2022-23 school year. The City issued over 3,500 warning notices during this time. This school year, the City conducted a warning period from August 21-September 17, and the program went live and began issuing paid citations on September 18. The City provided broad messaging to raise public awareness of the new program, including eNews, social media, ACPS Express, variable message boards, and media engagement.

Staff will monitor and evaluate the program over the course of the school year and identify recommendations for modifications or potential expansion of the program, considering funding for additional cameras that was included in the [Fiscal Year 2024 Approved Budget](#). Additional information is available on the [program webpage](#).

C. Public Input Opportunities for Corridor Projects

The City has initiated a series of corridor projects aimed at improving mobility, access, safety, and comfort for all roadway users. Staff solicited community input between August 28 and September 17 for the following projects:

Eisenhower Avenue Transportation Study

Because of feedback from residents regarding the nature of Eisenhower, the City is performing a corridor study for Eisenhower Avenue between South Van Dorn Street and Holland Lane, with support from the Virginia Department of Transportation via its Project Pipeline Program. The study will evaluate needs and opportunities for improving safety, mobility, and accessibility along the Eisenhower Avenue corridor.

The study is expected to be completed by summer 2024 and will include recommendations and concept designs for future improvements that can be leveraged for future grant funds to support project implementation. There may also be opportunities to implement short-term or interim improvements in limited cases.

The City gathered initial community feedback between August 28 and September 17 to inform the existing conditions analysis. There will be additional opportunities for public input as the study progresses.

More information is available on the [project webpage](#).

Holland Lane Corridor Improvements

The purpose of this project is to improve mobility, access, and safety for all roadway users of all ages and abilities on Holland Lane between Duke Street and Eisenhower

Avenue. Residents have raised concerns about pedestrian safety on Holland Lane, and the adopted Alexandria Mobility Plan calls for improved bicycle access on this corridor.

The City held a public comment period from August 28-September 17 to gather input from residents on issues and needs on Holland Lane. Following this initial community comment period, the City will develop design options to improve conditions on the corridor. There will be additional opportunities to provide feedback on the design options. Afterwards, the City will recommend a preferred design option to advance to detailed design. The project is anticipated to be implemented next year when Holland Lane is repaved.

More information is available on the [project webpage](#).

East Abingdon Drive Bike Lanes

The purpose of this project is to address resident requests to make it easier and safer for people to walk and bike on East Abingdon Drive by providing a two-way bike lane on East Abingdon Drive to connect the Mount Vernon Trail. Currently, there is a gap in the Mount Vernon Trail of about 600' in which people biking south must either bike against motor vehicle traffic or share a narrow, unbuffered sidewalk with people walking. The City solicited community feedback on this proposal between August 28 and September 17.

More information is available on the [project webpage](#).

D. Vision Zero and Complete Streets Work Plans Posted

Each year, the City updates the Complete Streets Five-Year Work Plan and develops a Vision Zero Annual Work Plan to guide staff work on Complete Streets and Vision Zero for each fiscal year. Both plans have been posted to the [Complete Streets](#) and [Vision Zero](#) webpages, respectively.

Notable changes to the [Complete Streets Five-Year Plan \(Fiscal Year 2024-2028\)](#) include:

- The addition of potential grants the City is currently pursuing, including Safe Routes to School Curb Extensions & Crossing Improvements, and Slater's Lane Sidewalk and Crossing Improvements.
- The addition of several bike lane projects:
 - East Abingdon Drive Bike Lanes (FY 2024)
 - Protected Bike Lanes (FY 2024)
 - Old Dominion Boulevard Bike Lanes (FY 2024)
 - Edsall Road Bike Lanes (FY 2026)
 - Mill Road Bike Lanes (FY 2028)
- The addition of a sidewalk project on Valley Drive (FY 2026)

Notable tasks in the [Fiscal Year 2024 Vision Zero Work Plan](#) include:

- West End High Crash Intersection Audits
- Neighborhood Slow Zone Program Development

- Leading Pedestrian Intervals and “No Turn on Red” Restrictions on (1) Major Corridor
- Safety Improvements at (3) Locations with a History of Pedestrian Crashes
- Pedestrian Lighting Study

Staff will present a comprehensive update on the Complete Streets and Vision Zero Programs to the Transportation Commission at its October meeting.

E. King Street & Commonwealth Avenue Streetscape & Rail Projects

The City of Alexandria’s Departments of Transportation & Environmental Services and Department of Project Implementation, in partnership with Virginia Rail Express (VRE), the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA), and AlexRenew are hosting a Community Open House on Wednesday, October 4 at the Alexandria Union Station (110 Callahan Drive) from 5 - 7 p.m. to share information on upcoming infrastructure projects occurring within the vicinity of the Alexandria Station. From 5 – 7 p.m., attendees can visit individual project boards to learn more about each project which will be staffed by project representatives. A brief presentation at 6 p.m. will introduce the various project teams, highlight the projects, and identify ways the community can stay in touch and learn more.

F. King Street - Bradlee Safety and Mobility Enhancements

The Department of Transportation & Environmental Services started a community engagement process to assess mobility, safety, access, and stormwater issues along King Street, from Quaker Lane to Menokin Drive. The purpose of the engagement is to evaluate existing safety and access issues and develop concept designs for future improvements along this critical corridor. This portion of the corridor was identified for multimodal improvements in the City’s 2021 adopted Alexandria Mobility Plan and is a priority location to install enhanced bicycle facilities and additional sidewalks to complete gaps in the City’s existing bicycle and sidewalk network.

Community engagement will run from September 20 through October 20 with an online feedback form and pop-up events at the Bradlee Center to solicit feedback. Community-based feedback will be used to develop concept plans that address identified concerns with the goal of retrofitting the area in ways that improve mobility, safety, and access for all roadway users of all ages, abilities, and modes of travel.

See the project website for more information: www.alexandriava.gov/go/4769

G. DASH Annual Ridership Record

DASH set new ridership record with 4.5 million boardings in FY 2023. To celebrate this milestone, DASH held a rider celebration event on August 18 at the King Street-Old Town Metrorail Station.

“This ridership record represents a remarkable milestone for DASH in our nearly four decades of providing public bus transit service in the City of Alexandria,” said Josh Baker, DASH’s CEO/General Manager.

Since the launch of the fare-free New DASH Network in September 2021, DASH has seen unprecedented ridership growth that helped it become the first transit agency in the region to return to pre-pandemic ridership levels. In the last year, DASH ridership has continued its meteoric rise with the 451,000 passenger boardings recorded in April 2023 representing the highest ridership total for a single month in agency history. Today, DASH carries more than 15,000 boardings on a typical weekday and 7,000 to 10,000 boardings on Saturdays and Sundays. The 4.5 million total boardings in FY 2023 eclipsed the previous record of 4.3 million in FY 2015.

“As we celebrate this achievement, we are especially proud of the positive impact that our recent service and fare changes are having on the Alexandria community,” noted Martin Barna, DASH Director of Planning & Marketing.

H. NVTA 70% Funds - Support for Shirlington Bus Center

This spring, NVTA formally requested applications seeking 70% regional transportation funding for FY 2028 and FY 2029 as part of the FY 2024 to FY 2029 Six-Year Program update. Occasionally, other agencies and jurisdictions propose projects that have direct benefits to the City. This year, Arlington County is submitting an application that supports the Alexandria West End Transitway project.

Arlington County has requested \$11.6 million to fund the Shirlington Bus Station Expansion. This station is the principal transfer point for Arlington Transit (ART) bus service, Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrobus service, and DASH bus service (Routes 36A and 36B) in South Arlington. This capital project focuses on adding bus bays at the Shirlington Bus Station to meet future demand, including the space needed for future West End Transitway buses and any service improvements from Alexandria’s Transit Vision Plan, as well as expansion plans of Arlington Transit and WMATA.

I. WMATA Blue Orange Silver Study

Metro launched the Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity & Reliability Study (BOS Study) in early 2019 to identify the best and most cost-effective solutions to better serve the needs of their customers and the region. WMATA identified long-standing issues and opportunities on the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines including capacity, reliability, equity, and long-term sustainability. To address these needs, the Blue/Orange/Silver Corridor Capacity & Reliability Study sought to identify alternatives to address the issues. The study concludes when Metro's Board of Directors selects a locally-preferred alternative (LPA).

After more than two years of study, intensive data analysis, and a lot of feedback from community partners and the public, WMATA identified six potential alternatives:

- Alternative 1: No-Build
- Alternative 2: Rail Optimization & Bus Service (Lower Capital Cost) Alternative
- Alternative 3: Blue Line to Greenbelt
- Alternative 4: Blue Line to National Harbor

- Alternative 5: Silver Line Express in VA
- Alternative 6: Silver Line to New Carrollton

Based off the criteria developed around the project’s goals and objectives, Alternative 4 scored the highest. This project would connect Huntington Station to National Harbor via the Wilson Bridge and connect the Blue Line north to Capitol South via several new stations and a connection at Navy Yard.

Metro's selection of a preferred alternative is the first step of a 10- to 20-year process. There will be no commitment to build until there is a funding agreement.

Metro is collecting feedback to inform the board’s selection of a preferred alternative through September 30, 2023. The online survey is available at:

<https://wmata.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=DkQF6cSMJGQ%3D>.

More information about the project and the potential alternatives are available at:

<https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/BOS-Capacity-Reliability-Study/>.

J. VDOT I-495 Express Lane Study

Since introducing the 495 Southside Study at the Public Information Meetings in May 2022, VDOT has developed proposed preliminary alternative concepts to address identified transportation needs within the study area, which are to extend and provide continuity of the Express Lanes system on I-495, provide additional travel choices, reduce congestion and improve travel reliability, improve safety, and provide consistency with local and regional plans. VDOT shared preliminary alternative concepts for review and input at upcoming public meetings to inform the range of alternatives that will be carried forward in the study.

VDOT invited the public to learn more about the study and participate in the virtual or in-person meetings listed below. All meetings included the same presentation and a question-and-answer session. Information about the study is available for review.

In-person Meetings

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center (Multi-purpose Room)

1108 Jefferson Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

John R. Lewis High School (Cafeteria)

6540 Franconia Road Springfield, VA 22150

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Oxon Hill High School (Auditorium)

6701 Leyte Drive Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

K. Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPR) Alexandria Projects Update

Alexandria Fourth Track Project

- The Alexandria Fourth Track Project will design and construct a fourth mainline track to provide additional rail capacity between Northern Virginia and Washington, DC.
 - The Project begins just south of the George Washington Memorial Parkway at the southern end of the Long Bridge Project (the “RO Interlocking”).
 - The project ends at the AF interlocking, which is located west of the Telegraph Road overpass. This interlocking is currently a bottleneck where three tracks from the VRE Fredericksburg Line converge with the two tracks from the VRE Manassas Line.
- Work includes the construction of approximately six miles of fourth track in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, generally staying within the existing railroad right-of-way.
- Existing tracks will be shifted to improve speeds, accommodate station and platform improvements (by others) and provide space within the right-of-way for the additional mainline track.
- Final design is anticipated to be completed in the first quarter of 2024.
- An early works project package, consisting of the relocation of a fiber optic duct bank within the rail corridor, is expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2023.
- Mainline construction is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2024, with substantial completion anticipated for the fourth quarter of 2026.

King and Commonwealth Bridge Replacements

- The King and Commonwealth Railroad Bridges Replacement Project is separate from the Alexandria Fourth Track Project. However, the railroad bridges fall within the limits of the Alexandria Fourth Track Project and are a critical element for completing a four-track corridor.
- A feasibility study was conducted in Spring 2022 for the King and Commonwealth Railroad Bridges Project, and the replacement of both bridges was selected as the recommended option.
- Final design is anticipated to be completed in the second quarter of 2024.
- Construction is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2024, with substantial completion anticipated for the fourth quarter of 2026.

Upcoming Public Outreach

- The VPR project team is scheduled to meet with the Rosemont Citizens Association PELT group on September 18.
- An in-person Public Open House is planned for Wednesday, October 4, 2023 (5-7 p.m.) at the Alexandria VRE Station. This Open House will be held jointly with the City of Alexandria, AlexRenew, and VRE and will cover multiple infrastructure investments under design in the King and Commonwealth area. In

addition to VPRA’s projects, these include the VRE Alexandria Station Upgrades, the City’s street redesigns for King and Commonwealth following the bridge replacements, the City’s Hooffs Run Culvert Bypass Project, and the AlexRenew Commonwealth Interceptor Upgrade Project.

- Additionally, VPRA will host a virtual public webinar in November and several pop-up events in mid-October.

VPRA can be contacted for questions and comments via the following:

- www.vapassengerrailauthority.org
- info@vpva.virginia.gov
- Facebook: VAPassengerRail
- Twitter: VAPassengerRail
- LinkedIn: Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

