



Transportation Commission Meeting

May 20, 2026

7:00 PM

2900B Business Center Drive

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Public Comment (Not to exceed 10 min) | 7:00 – 7:10 |
| 2. Minutes of the April meeting | 7:10-7:15 |
| 3. Discussion Item: Duke Street Land Use Plan | 7:15 – 7:45 |
| 4. Action Item: SMART SCALE application | 7:45 – 8:00 |
| 5. Commissioner Updates | 8:10 – 8:20 |
| 6. Written Items | 8:20 – 8:30 |
| A. Holland Lane and Reinekers Lane | |
| B. West Alexandria Transit Center Bus Shelters | |
| C. Commonwealth Transportation Board Meeting | |
| D. Talking Transit Webinar with Sister Cities | |
| E. Capital Projects Update | |
| 7. Other Business | 8:30 – 8:40 |

Public hearing items are so noted on the agenda. The Commission may receive public comments on other agenda items at its discretion.

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026

This meeting of the Transportation Commission is being held electronically. Members of the Transportation Commission and staff are participating either from a remote locations through video conference call on Zoom. The meeting can be accessed via Zoom by registering at the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95028234542>

Meeting ID: 950 2823 4542

Passcode: 947959

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,95028234542#,,, *947959# US

+19292056099,,95028234542#,,, *947959# US (New York)

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 the day of the Commission meeting to Christopher.Ziemannn@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of ADA. An individual with a disability who wishes to request accommodation may contact the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4083 or TTY/TTD 703-838-5056.



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission
May 20, 2026
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Tim Lovain, Vice Chair Dan Beattie, Commissioner Leslie Catherwood, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner Jim Maslanka, Commissioner Melissa McMahon, Commissioner Matthew McManus; Councilman John Chapman.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann - Transportation Planning Division Chief; Sara Brandt-Vorel – Capital Project Manager; Max Devilliers – Urban Planner, Transportation & Environmental Services; Michael D’Orazio – Urban Planner, Planning & Zoning.

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/TransportationCommission>

1. Public Comment **00:04:34**

Public comment focused on cut-through traffic in Old Town and the possibility of studying new approaches to distinguish local destination traffic from regional pass-through traffic.

- **Carl Fisher**, a resident of Old Town, noted he’d submitted written comments and a memorandum to the Commission and requested that staff continue exploring innovative, data-driven ways to address cut-through commuter traffic affecting Old Town streets such as Henry, Patrick, Duke, Washington, and Braddock. He noted that prior City studies have shown that a substantial share of traffic in the Duke Street corridor consisted of trips that neither began nor ended in Alexandria, and said the resulting congestion, noise, and safety impacts continue to affect residents daily.
- Commissioner discussion following the comment noted that congestion pricing or similar approaches would require state authorization before the City could act, but that the concept may still be worth future exploration, including possible legislative action or a discussion with outside experts.

2. April Minutes **00:09:13**

Motion to approve minutes for the April 15, 2026 meeting: Commissioner Catherwood

Second: Commissioner McMahon

Motion carries 7-0

3. Discussion Item: Duke Street Land Use Plan **00:10:40**

Michael D’Orazio from the Department of Planning & Zoning presented an update on the Duke Street Land Use Plan. Key points included:

- The plan area spans roughly four miles from the West End/Former Landmark Mall area to the King Street Metro area and is intended to guide future land use, mobility, public realm, parks and open space, and building form along the corridor.
- Staff reported extensive public engagement since the process began in 2025, including more than 50 pop-ups, workshops, community meetings, and online engagement tools intended to reach residents, businesses, and corridor users.
- The recently released framework plans establish an early corridor vision for mobility, land use, redevelopment opportunity areas, affordability retention, and public realm improvements.

- The mobility framework identifies proposed bicycle facilities, pedestrian connections, and new streets that could be realized as redevelopment occurs, while also building on previously adopted transportation planning work such as the Duke Street Transitway and the Alexandria Mobility Plan.
- Staff emphasized that the current mobility map is still conceptual and does not yet classify the specific type of bicycle facility proposed in each location.
- On May 28th, a Community meeting will be held to look specifically at Housing and Health; additional public meetings are being planned for June. More detailed recommendations are expected in early summer; the draft full plan will be released in September and public hearings anticipated in December.

Questions/Discussion

Commissioner and Staff discussion regarding the **Duke Street Land Use Plan** focused on:

- The need to avoid scheduling future Duke Street transportation meetings at the same time as Transportation Commission meetings.
- Questions about whether the online engagement map is generating enough public feedback and how residents can add location-specific comments.
- The importance of more visible and proactive outreach to non-English-speaking communities, including direct engagement rather than relying only on translation by request.
- Suggestions to better illustrate how the corridor plan connects to surrounding neighborhoods, trails, other small area plans, and the broader bicycle and pedestrian network beyond the formal plan boundary.
- The importance of showing how this land use planning effort builds on, rather than restarts, prior transportation work such as Duke Street in Motion and the Duke Street Transitway.
- Support for identifying and planning future parallel routes, new internal streets, and redevelopment block structures that can improve circulation for people walking, biking, taking transit, and driving.
- Concerns about relying on shared lane markings as a meaningful bicycle facility and interest in identifying safer, more durable connections instead.
- Interest in utility placement and sidewalk obstructions, with comments that future corridor improvements should account for poles, signs, and other barriers that reduce sidewalk usability.
- Specific concern about the difficult connection between the Van Dorn area, the future West End redevelopment, and the Holmes Run Trail system, including grade changes, narrow sidewalks, and the need to at least identify a future connection strategy in the plan.
- Commissioners also commended staff for the scale and variety of public engagement undertaken to date.

4. Action Item: FY 2033-2034 Smart Scale Grant Applications

00:43:58

Sara Brandt-Vorel presented two proposed Smart Scale applications for the upcoming cycle and requested Commission endorsement of a letter to City Council supporting the applications. Key points included:

- The City plans to request up to \$27 million for the King Street/Bradlee Safety and Mobility Enhancements Project and up to \$8 million for the Mount Vernon Avenue North Intersection Improvements Project, for a total request of up to \$35 million.
- The King Street/Bradlee project would fund implementation of previously approved improvements including a dedicated bus lane, sidewalks, a protected two-way cycle track, stormwater treatment, and other transit and pedestrian improvements.
- Staff noted that the King Street/Bradlee project had previously been submitted in an earlier Smart Scale round but was not selected, and that design work has since advanced to strengthen the application.
- The Mount Vernon Avenue North project would fund safety improvements at the intersections of Mount Vernon Avenue with Executive Avenue and Russell Road, building on work identified through the Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area Plan and subsequent concept development.
- City Council is expected to consider authorizing the applications in June, with materials due to the state by August 1 and preliminary recommendations expected in January.

Questions/Discussion

Commissioner and Staff discussion regarding the **FY2033-2034 Smart Scale Grant Applications** focused on:

- Questions about why the earlier King Street/Bradlee application was not selected and whether more feedback from VDOT would help improve future grant submissions.
- The challenge that Smart Scale is highly quantitative, but the criteria and weighting are themselves policy choices that can affect Northern Virginia projects differently from projects elsewhere in the Commonwealth.
- Interest in whether future City legislative priorities should include advocacy for better applicant feedback and review of Smart Scale criteria and weighting.
- The view that the lack of Northern Virginia awards in the previous round did not necessarily reflect weak Alexandria projects, but rather broader statewide outcomes and scoring dynamics.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: that the Commission endorse the FY 2033-2034 Smart Scale grant applications for the King Street/Bradlee Safety and Mobility Enhancements Project and the Mount Vernon Avenue North Intersection Improvements Project and support a letter to City Council reflecting the Commission's broader concerns about Smart Scale competitiveness and feedback.

Motion to endorse the FY 2033-34 Smart Scale grant applications and support a letter to Council speaking to concerns about competitiveness and feedback: 01:00:48
Commissioner McMahon
Second: Commissioner Kane
Motion carries 7-0

5. Commissioner Updates 01:01:52

Vice Chair Beattie: No updates to report.

Commissioner Catherwood: No updates.

Commissioner Kane: Reported that the Traffic and Parking Board selected Kursten Phelps as its new representative to the Transportation Commission, pending City Council approval. He also summarized recent Traffic and Parking Board actions, including approval of valet parking on North Lee Street, discussion of nearby loading, bike corral, and enforcement issues, approval of food truck vending changes, and an extended discussion of proposed changes to residential parking permits for certain non-resident household-related users. Kane also noted recent grant awards supporting the Citywide Bicycle Network Gap Analysis, the Mount Vernon Avenue corridor study, and regional work related to pedestrian hybrid beacons, and commended staff for continued success in securing outside funding.

Commissioner Maslanka: No updates.

Commissioner McMahon: Reported on Planning Commission discussion of upcoming text amendments related to substandard lots and lots without frontage, noting that the topic raised broader questions about frontage, access, emergency response, parking, and how the City evaluates development in its horizontal and vertical built environments.

Commissioner McManus: Reported that the DASH Advisory Committee continues to engage the public through a series of spring and summer community events and praised DASH marketing and public engagement efforts.

Councilman Chapman: Reported that Councilmember Sandy Marks is expected to join the Transportation Commission as an additional Council representative.

Chair Lovain: Gave testimony this week before the Commonwealth Transportation Board (along with Hillary Orr and Jim Durham) in support of Alexandria transportation projects, including Safe Routes to School, highlighted the City's improved project-delivery performance and progress on the VDOT dashboard.

Commission discussion also highlighted the need to better communicate and celebrate the City's transportation funding and delivery successes, including through more user-friendly public-facing project and funding

information.

6. Written Items

01:29:54

Item A. ADA Bus Stop Improvements (pulled by Commissioner Kane)

Commissioners praised the Holland Lane and Reinekers Lane bicycle improvements, noting that the projects have improved comfort, reduced gaps in the bicycle network, and made those corridors more functional and intuitive for bicycle travel.

Item E: Eisenhower-Landmark-Van Dorn Newsletter

- Commissioners discussed the Landmark/Van Dorn sidewalk project and used it as an example of the long timeline between grant application, funding award, and construction delivery.
- It was reiterated that the City's funding dashboard could do more to show the history, timing, and significance of successful grant-funded projects in a more user-friendly format.

6. Other Business

01:34:49

The Commission briefly discussed upcoming membership transitions and thanked Commissioner for his service, noting that he would still attend one additional meeting before stepping away.

At **8:33 pm**, the Transportation Commission meeting adjourned.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 20, 2026

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: MICHAEL D’ORAZIO, URBAN PLANNER, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 – DUKE STREET LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

ISSUE: Draft framework plans for the future Duke Street Land Use Plan were recently released for public feedback and the draft recommendations are scheduled to be released in early Summer 2026 for community review.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive this presentation and provide feedback on the Draft Mobility Framework Plan.

BACKGROUND: As part of City Council’s FY 2026 Long Range Planning Work Program, the Duke Street Land Use Plan community process launched in June 2025. Since that time, more than 3,500 stakeholders have participated through over 45+ pop-up events, 5 community meetings, 1 open house, 4 workshops, and numerous discussions with civic organizations, businesses, ACHS students, and property owners.

Over the first few phases of the planning process, Staff worked with the community to develop the essential building blocks of the future Plan, each step building upon previous discussions to reflect the community’s vision for the future.

First, the Draft Plan Principles were finalized in October, 2025 to establish the Plan’s foundation, upon which all recommendations will be aligned. Next, the Draft Land Use Themes were shared with the public in December and January as a geographic organization of the Draft Plan Principles. Most recently, the Draft Framework Plan was shared at a virtual community meeting in April. The Framework Plan is a set of four maps (Land Use, Heights, Open Space, and Mobility) that will become the key elements of the Plan and will help guide how development can occur along the corridor.

Additional community engagement is planned for May and June, with the intent of releasing draft Plan recommendations in July and the full draft Plan for public comment in September, with public hearings on the final plan anticipated in late 2025 or early 2026.

DISCUSSION: Staff will present an overview and timeline of the Duke Street Land Use Plan planning effort, with a focus on the recently released Draft Mobility Framework Plan.

The Mobility Framework Plan encourages a transportation network that improves access and connectivity for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and drivers. The framework shows the following proposed infrastructure, which supplements the existing mobility network:

- Proposed bike facilities, which include proposed bike lanes, sharrows, or multi-use trails, including facilities previously approved in the Alexandria Mobility Plan and other City plans;
- Proposed pedestrian connections, which include proposed trails or paths that connect to other existing trails, paths, or sidewalks;
- Proposed street typologies, which include multiple street categories, such as park, retail, and residential streets, that will correspond in the future to street layouts with unique streetscapes; and
- The planned Duke Street Transitway with proposed stops.

Community members are encouraged to submit feedback on the framework plans by visiting the [community engagement hub](#). They may also watch this [video](#) that provides a recap of the planning process so far.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 20, 2026

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 – CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSEMENT OF THE FY 2033 – FY 2034 SMART SCALE GRANT APPLICATION

ISSUE: Consideration of a letter of endorsement to City Council to support Grant Applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for FY 2033 – FY 2034 SMART SCALE projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission endorse a letter to City Council in support of the FY 2033 – FY 2034 SMART SCALE applications.

BACKGROUND: In 2014, HB2 was signed into law, and in June 2016, the program was renamed SMART SCALE. SMART stands for System Management Allocation of Resources for Transportation and SCALE stands for the six-road project scoring attributes: Safety, Congestion Mitigation, Accessibility, Land Use, Environmental and Economic development. State law assigns different weights to factors based on a project's location within a region of the state. Within Northern Virginia, the recently updated factors are as follows: congestion mitigation is the highest weighted factor at 45%; accessibility at 25%, environmental quality at 10%, safety is 15% and economic development at 5% each. The goal of SMART SCALE is to ensure the state invests limited tax dollars into projects that meet critical transportation needs. The state will make awards in June 2027 for projects scheduled for implementation in FY 2033 - FY 2034. To date, the City and DASH have been awarded approximately \$154 million in SMART SCALE funding for projects (Attachment 2).

DISCUSSION: Based on the guidelines and criteria outlined in the SMART SCALE process, staff assess previously approved unfunded or underfunded projects that align with the timing of SMART SCALE funding and criteria. Staff identified two City projects as viable and competitive candidates for this round of funding. Full project submissions are due on August 1, 2026. Staff will develop more detailed cost estimates over the next several months and in coordination with VDOT staff. The City is requesting approval to apply for up to the maximum amounts noted for each project.

Project 1: King Street-Bradlee Safety and Mobility Enhancements: Up to \$27 Million – This project will construct improvements to the access road and intersections along King Street between Quaker Lane and Menokin Drive. The design will include wider sidewalks,

a separate path for people biking, e-biking, and scooting, safety improvements at intersections, and accessible and enhanced transit stops. This project currently has funding available for design. Staff began working with the community in Fall 2023 to understand concerns with the roadway and undertook extensive community engagement through the concept design phase to identify a preferred design. The project was approved by the Traffic and Parking Board on June 24, 2024 and City Council on October 8, 2024. Staff previously submitted this project for an earlier round of SMART SCALE funding for FY2030-FY2031 but the project was not awarded funds. More information on the engagement process and recommended design concepts can be found on the project website at www.alexandriava.gov/go/4769.

Project 2: Mount Vernon Avenue North Intersection Improvements: Up to \$8 Million –

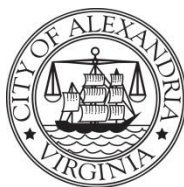
This project will improve safety benefits for pedestrians, cyclists and bus riders while minimizing impacts to traffic operations and parking. The project includes realignment of the intersections of Executive Avenue and Russell Road as they intersect Mount Vernon Avenue to reduce crashes, improve sight lines, reduce vehicle speeds and create safer space for all roadway users. The project includes wider sidewalks, additional crosswalks, improved bus stops, shorter crossing distances and increased greenspace. This project is the result of a case study in 2016 which recommended opportunities to improve the safety of all roadway users along Mount Vernon Avenue, which was incorporated into the 2021 Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area Plan. At the plan's completion, Transportation Staff undertook a multi-year planning process called the Mount Vernon Avenue North Complete Streets Project, seeking design improvements at four intersections on Mount Vernon Avenue, including Executive Avenue and Russell Avenue. At each location, city staff solicited feedback from residents, coordinated with property owners and assessed benefits of each design option before selecting a preferred design alternative for the intersection. The final preferred design alternative was approved by the City's Traffic and Parking board in April 2024. More information on the engagement process and recommended design concepts can be found on the project website at www.alexandriava.gov/go/7865.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total grant request is for up to \$35 Million for the two City applications. SMART SCALE grants do not require a local match.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: DRAFT Transportation Commission Letter of Endorsement

Attachment 2: Previous SMART SCALE Project Awards



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

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

May 20, 2026

Re: **Endorsement of FY 2033 – FY 2034 SMART SCALE Funding Requests**

Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of City Council:

At its May 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff-recommended list of two projects for pre-application for grant funding for the FY 2033 SMART SCALE program. The proposed application for the two City projects would include up to \$35 million for the following requests:

1. King Street-Bradlee Safety and Mobility Enhancements: Up to \$27 Million
2. Mount Vernon Avenue North Intersection Improvements: Up to \$8 Million

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Tim Lovain
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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

Attachment 2: Previous SMART SCALE Project Awards

SMART Scale Funding FY2024-- FY2029								
Project Name	Prior Years	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	Project Total
Old Cameron Run Trail	\$ 2,732,000		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,273,000	\$ 2,541,000			\$ 7,546,000
Safety & Capacity Enhancements (Duke St. and West Taylor Run)	\$ 1,581,000	\$ 3,700,000				\$ 618,000	\$ 1,390,000	\$ 7,289,000
Broadband Link for Eisenhower Avenue	\$ 1,000,000							\$ 1,000,000
Traffic Adaptive Signal Control	\$ 14,686,000							\$ 14,686,000
West End Transitway	\$ 11,468,000							\$ 11,468,000
DASH Bus Service and Facility Expansion	\$ 13,357,000	\$ 1,281,000						\$ 14,638,000
Access Improvements to the Landmark Transit Hub		\$ 3,950,000	\$ 2,384,000					\$ 6,334,000
Citywide TSP on Major Corridors		\$ 374,000	\$ 1,736,000					\$ 2,110,000
West End Transitway Corridor Investments		\$ 23,610,000	\$ 33,590,000					\$ 57,200,000
DASH Zero Emission Fleet Expansion		\$ 4,960,000	\$ 7,040,000					\$ 12,000,000
Route 1 and Glebe				\$ 3,113,000				\$ 3,113,000
Route 1 South Median	\$ 2,235,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,046,000					\$ 4,281,000
Landmark Mall Transit Center	\$ 5,257,000				\$ 2,993,000		\$ 4,747,000	\$ 12,997,000
SMART Scale Total	\$ 52,316,000	\$ 38,875,000	\$ 46,796,000	\$ 4,386,000	\$ 5,534,000	\$ 618,000	\$ 6,137,000	\$ 154,662,000

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 20, 2026

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #9 – WRITTEN ITEMS

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the written items.

A. Holland Lane and Reinekers Lane

Construction is underway for the Holland Lane Corridor Improvements Project. This project is providing streetscape and safety improvements in conjunction with street resurfacing, including new pedestrian crossings, medians, trees, and protected bicycle lanes. The project will be completed this spring.

Holland Lane Photos:





Additionally, the City recently adding bicycle connectivity improvements on Reinekers Lane, including a protected contraflow bicycle lane, to improve bicycle access to the King Street-Old Town Metro Station and surrounding area. Additional improvements are being installed this spring on Diagonal Road to connect the bicycle lane on Reinekers to Commonwealth Avenue.

Reinekers Lane Photos:



Bicycle Improvements Map:



B. West Alexandria Transit Center

12 new bus shelters were installed at the West Alexandria Transit Center in April 2026. The addition of these bus shelters improves safety and comfort in the interim for transit riders while progress continues on the design of the innovative, future [West Alexandria Transit Center](#). Upon completion of the permanent transit center, the 12 bus shelters will be relocated to other priority bus stop locations around the City. Funding for the bus shelters was provided by a TRIP grant from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. The West Alexandria Transit Center replaces the former Landmark Mall Transit Center, which permanently closed in November 2025 as part of the West End Alexandria Redevelopment Project.





C. Commonwealth Transportation Board Monthly Meeting and VDOT Six Year Program Public Hearing in Alexandria

On May 19 and May 20, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will meet in Alexandria. This will be a good opportunity for local leaders to meet and speak with CTB members in advance of the finalization of the Six Year Improvement Plan. Additionally, VDOT will hold its public meeting to discuss the Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP). The projects for discussion in Alexandria include the TA Grant for School Crossing Improvements Phase 2, and several State of Good Repair projects.

D. Talking Transit Webinar with Sister Cities

On May 12, staff hosted a webinar with transportation counterparts in two of Alexandria's Sister Cities (Dundee, Scotland and Helsingborg, Sweden). Dundee representative John Berry talked about operating transit in the UK's private ownership model. Traffic Planners from Helsingborg discussed their BRT Project in comparison to other systems in Europe. And Alexandria staff discussed fare free transit and lessons learned.

E. Capital Projects Update – Christina

Several capital projects are currently in the design and construction phases. For design phase milestones, the Access to Landmark sidewalk project is entering the public engagement phase beginning in May 2026, while the West Taylor Run project completed its public engagement phase in April 2026. Regarding construction phase milestones, the Route 1 Median Improvements project is scheduled to begin construction in May 2026. The Beauregard Trail project is currently out for bid, with construction anticipated to begin in late Summer 2026, and the Bus Shelter project is also out for bid, with construction expected to start in Fall 2026.