ALEXANDRIA
Environmental Policy Commission

Nov 16th, 2026

RE: **FY2028 Environmental Budget Priorities**

Dear City Manager Parajon,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Fiscal Year 2028 budget. The Environmental Policy Commission recognizes the fiscal challenges facing the City while also acknowledging that continued investment in climate and resilience infrastructure remains essential for the health, safety, and prosperity of Alexandria residents. We have separated our budget priorities into two categories: operational budget priorities and capital improvement budget priorities.

## Operational Budget Priorities

**Office of Climate Action & Eco-City Alexandria:** Maintain budget for the Eco-City Alexandria goals in the Environmental Action Plan and Energy and Climate Change Action Plan. At a minimum, this requires maintaining the FY27 budget for the Office of Climate Action in FY28.

Additionally, the EPC continues to support evaluation of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions and expand access to cleaner electricity options. The EPC encourages the City to dedicate sufficient staff and consultant resources within OCA to continue technical, legal, and financial evaluation of CCA as a strategy for achieving Alexandria's climate goals and reducing costs for Alexandria residents.
**[Maintain the FY27 Office of Climate Action funding and support additional funding for continued exploration of Community Choice Aggregation.]**

**DASH:** DASH provides significant environmental and equity benefits for Alexandria residents and remains a key component of the City's climate strategy. The EPC recognizes the importance of addressing recent budget management concerns and strengthening financial oversight. At the same time, budget challenges should not come at the expense of maintaining reliable transit service and state-of-good-repair investments.
**[Maintain the FY27 DASH operating funding level of approximately $39 million while implementing appropriate accountability measures and preserving service levels.]**

**Safe Routes to School:** Safe Routes to School programs improve student safety while advancing Alexandria's transportation, public health, and climate goals. Following the loss of dedicated state funding and Local Assistance Coordinators, the EPC recommends local budget to support Safe Routes to School planning, education, and infrastructure improvements.
**[Establish dedicated City funding for Safe Routes to School programs and infrastructure improvements.]**

## Capital Improvement Budget Priorities

**City Hall Renovation:** The EPC strongly supports preserving all planned sustainability and energy-efficiency features in the City Hall renovation project. These features should not be removed or scaled back through value-engineering efforts intended to reduce project costs, as doing so would undermine the City's climate goals and increase long-term operating expenses.
**[Continue funding commitments for the City Hall, Market Square, and Parking Garage Renovation project identified in the FY27-FY36 CIP]**

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**State of Good Repair:** The EPC supports maintaining funding for the City's facility renewal and replacement programs. When building systems require replacement, the City should prioritize high-efficiency, low-carbon alternatives that reduce operating costs and support Alexandria's environmental goals.
**[Maintain funding for state-of-good-repair investments and prioritize energy-efficient replacements.]**

**Parks & Public Spaces:** Parks and public spaces are essential community assets that provide environmental, public health, and climate resilience benefits. The EPC supports maintaining funding for parks and recreation projects identified in the FY2027-FY2036 CIP and encourages continued investment in Alexandria's open spaces and urban tree canopy.
**[Maintain the $5M in capital maintenance for recreation and parks in the FY27-FY36 CIP]**

## Additional Considerations

The EPC also encourages the City to continue allocating funding for:

- Flood mitigation and stormwater infrastructure investments, including projects identified through Flood Action Alexandria;
- Urban tree canopy preservation and expansion;
- Building electrification and energy-efficiency initiatives;
- Climate resilience initiatives that protect Alexandria residents from flooding and extreme heat.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. We appreciate the City's continued commitment to environmental stewardship and look forward to working with City Council and staff throughout the FY2028 budget process.

Sincerely,

Marta Schantz, Chair
Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission

**Copied Distribution:** Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of City Council

**Sources:**
FY 2027 Approved Operating Budget
Approved FY 2027 – FY 2036 Capital Improvement Program

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