Transportation Commission Meeting

November 18, 2026
7:00 PM
2900B Business Center Drive

AGENDA

1.	Public Comment (Not to exceed 10 min)	7:00 – 7:05
2.	Minutes of the October meeting.	7:00 – 7:05
3.	**Discussion Item:** Duke Street Land Use Plan Endorsement	7:10 – 7:15
4.	**Discussion Item:** FY28 Budget Priority Recommendations Letter	7:15 – 7:20
5.	**Hearing Item: CMAQ/RSTP Grant Applications** a. Traffic Management Systems Modernization b. Mount Vernon Avenue and Glebe Road c. Duke Street and Route 1 Safety Improvements d. Multimodal Traffic Study	7:20 – 7:35
6.	**Hearing Item: I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program Funding Request**	7:35 – 7:45
7.	**Discussion Item:** Transportation Program Updates a. Vision Zero Action Plan Implementation b. Complete Streets c. Safe Routes to School d. Trails	7:45 – 8:15
8.	**Commissioner Updates**	8:15 – 8:20
9.	**Written Items** a. Capital Projects Update b. 2027 Transportation Commission Schedule c. Carshare Policy Update d. Southern Towers	8:20 – 8:25

10. **Other Business:** 8:25 – 8:30
    a. December 16 – Virtual

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, DECEMBER 16, 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://alexandriava.zoom.us/j/95714787959
Webinar ID: 957 1478 7959
Passcode: 100095

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

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 TransportationCommission@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
October 21, 2026
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Tim Lovain, Vice Chair Dan Beattie, Commissioner Jim Maslanka, Commissioner Kursten Phelps, Commissioner Melissa McMahon, Commissioner Steve McBride (*Pending), Commissioner Jordan Miles (*Pending), Councilman John Chapman, Councilwoman Sandy Marks.

Staff Present: Sara Brandt-Vorel - Capital Project Manager; Michael C D'Orazio - Urban Planner III (Planning & Zoning); Christian Brandt - Urban Planner III (Planning & Zoning).

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

1. Public Comment 00:10:06

No public comment was received.

2. September Minutes 00:10:28

Motion to approve minutes for the September 16, 2026 meetings: Commissioner McMahon
Second: Commissioner McManus

Motion carries 5-0 (*Pending Commissioners McBride and Miles abstained).
**A notice of Public Hearing is required in order to officially vote the two new Commission members in; an endorsement vote will take place at the November 18 meeting.*

3. Discussion Item: Duke Street Land Use Planning: Mobility 00:10:59

Michael C D'Orazio and **Christian Brandt** presented an update on the City's Smart Mobility Program. Key points included:

- The plan covers the Duke Street corridor from Alexandria Union Station toward Van Dorn Street and builds on prior guiding principles and community engagement, including more than 70 pop-up events and outreach to residents, businesses, and students.
- The plan identifies potential redevelopment opportunity areas near planned transitway stations, proposes a more connected street network as properties redevelop, and includes pedestrian, bicycle, and streetscape improvements.
- The mobility framework builds upon the Alexandria Mobility Plan and Duke Street Transitway and identifies additional locations for future safety and multimodal studies.
- Staff described the significant share of regional through-traffic on portions of Duke Street, noting that, based on the most recent studies, approximately 30-40% of trips from Quaker to Telegraph on Duke Street are regional in nature. The long-range land use plan seeks to improve local travel choices and safety over a 20-year, staged plan.

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Questions/Discussion

Commissioner and staff discussion regarding the **Duke Street Land Use Planning** focused on:

- Commissioners discussed the relationship between future development, congestion, and regional through-traffic, including how land use and walkable destinations could reduce local automobile trips.
- Questions addressed transitway connections to potential future regional bus service, the usefulness of updated traffic trends, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.
- The importance of planning for street trees and planting space in order to provide a large tree canopy to ensure adequate shade and combat the heat effect in and around the Duke Street Corridor.
- Staff indicated that the Commission's endorsement would be brought back in November after proper public-hearing notice, ahead of anticipated December consideration of the plan. No endorsement vote was taken in October.

4. Discussion Item: Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Priorities **00:50:41**

Sara Brandt-Vorel reviewed the City Manager's request for Board and Commission input on FY 2028 budget priorities and summarized previous Transportation Commission recommendations. Focus areas included:

- Maintaining reliable regional transit funding, particularly WMATA, and protecting DASH service and its operating resources.
- Prioritizing street safety, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and accessibility investments amid significant budget constraints.
- A need to focus on alternatives to driving, which are even more important amidst economic pressures, including investing in education and safety for bikes/micromobility (BITs), which ties in with SRTS and Complete Streets objectives.
- Improving snow clearance for sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and bus stops, as well as preserving staff capacity for transportation planning and project delivery.
- Exploring additional and creative funding sources, including potential dedicated revenues, while acknowledging competing Citywide needs and fiscal limitations.

Staff summarized the Commission's direction for its FY 2028 budget input, emphasizing continued transit support and safety investments. Sara Brandt-Vorel will draft a letter to Council outlining these priorities for review, approval and Chair signature at the November meeting.

5. Commissioner Updates **01:30:29**

Chair Lovain: Noted that he had a good meeting with Marta Schantz, Chairman of the City's Environmental Policy Commission, which has several current initiatives we may want to collaborate on, such as under-sidewalk charging for electric vehicles. He also highlighted that a different member of their commission is being reserved (not seated) at City Council Saturday Public Hearing meetings and noted that they have two high school sophomores show up to every meeting.

Vice Chair Dan Beattie: No updates to report.

Commissioner Maslanka: No updates.

(*Pending) Commissioner McBride: No updates.

Commissioner McMahon: Planning Commission held their annual retreat on September 25, where they discussed green building plan implementation and the future of the City beyond long-range plans.

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(*Pending) Commissioner Miles: No updates but noted he is concerned about potential DASH service reductions for Seniors.

Commissioner Phelps: The Traffic & Parking board has a lot of work, particularly on the West End, and recently approved safety improvements near the Inova site. She also sits on the DASH board, and given recent budget shortfall, advised the board that there is a public input survey regarding potential service reductions open until November 10, in advance of a public hearing to be held later in November – urged board members to provide input. Follow-up discussion covered the topic of consolidation, which the Mayor has spoken strongly against.

Councilman Chapman: Note that Council has a Fall retreat scheduled for November, will be talking about resource, budget and some legislative goal. He is on the legislative subcommittee and just received a draft copy of the legislative packet for this year which will likely be finalized in December. They also met with the State delegation recently.

Councilwoman Marks: No updates to report. Provided some ideas to fill and maintain the still unfilled ATC youth representative position, prompting Commissioner follow-up discussion on this issue and related suggestions.

6. Written Items **01:50:15**

Members highlighted the upcoming **West End Transportation Open House** (Item C) on October 29 and encouraged participation and outreach.

7. Other Business **01:51:29**

The Commission discussed whether the December 16 meeting could be held virtually given holiday schedules and an anticipated shorter agenda while recognizing the need to maintain a quorum for any action items.

At **8:51 pm,** the Transportation Commission meeting adjourned.

DRAFT

Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
www.alexandriava.gov Alexandria, VA 22314 Phone: 703.746.4025

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

November 19, 2026

Re: Duke Street Land Use Plan Endorsement from Transportation Commission

Dear Mayor Gaskins, Members of City Council and Members of the Planning Commission:

At its October 21, 2026 meeting, the Alexandria Transportation Commission reviewed the draft Duke Street Land Use Plan's transportation-related elements. The Commission moved to endorse the Plan as consistent with the Alexandria Mobility Plan (AMP) at its November 18, 2026 meeting.

During discussion of the draft Plan, the Transportation Commission highlighted the following:

- The importance of providing options and connections for multiple modes of transportation throughout the Plan area; and
- The benefits of and need to provide shade throughout the Plan area, including along transportation routes.

The Transportation Commission was created by Council to advocate and promote the development of balanced transportation systems in the City through oversight of the implementation of the Transportation Chapter of the City's adopted Master Plan. Our action on November 18, 2026 was conducted to fulfill that oversight obligation.

The Commission appreciates your consideration of its input on this project, and we look forward to the implementation of the Duke Street Land Use Plan.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Timothy Lovain
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager James Parajon
Leah Riley, Director of Transportation & Environmental Services
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, Transportation & Environmental Services

DRAFT

Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov Phone: 703.746.4025

City Manager Jim Parajon
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

November 19, 2026

Re: FY 2028 Budget Feedback

Dear City Manager Parajon:

At its October meeting, the Transportation Commission received an update from staff on the FY28 budget process and the City Manager's letter to Boards and Commissions to provide feedback on priority budget options. The City's commitment to funding **transportation programs and services** is critical to advancing Council Priorities.

Transportation costs represent a significant financial burden for families seeking affordable housing and workers seeking the best employment opportunities. A reliable, accessible transit system **supports economic development** by connecting businesses to a broader workforce and customer base, improving access to commercial destinations, and attracting businesses to locate, remain, and grow in the city. Maintaining transportation infrastructure and transit services in a state of good repair is **fiscally responsible**, helping prevent deferred maintenance and unexpected costs while preserving the City's strong credit rating. Transit investments, particularly the priorities outlined below, are also essential to **addressing racial and economic disparities** across our community and achieving meaningful reductions in our climate impact. Given these broad economic, environmental, social, and equity benefits, the Transportation Commission advocates for **maintaining or increasing funding for City transportation programs** and considering all available tools to meet the City's transportation needs.

The Transportation Commission would like to advance three transportation investment areas which are critical to supporting citywide goals and are grounded in long-term City plans and policies:

- **WMATA Regional Transit**: Invest in a stable, reliable, and sustainable regional transit system while continuing to advocate at the regional and state levels for a dedicated, long-term funding source.
- **Alexandria Transit**: Provide funding to address known operational and capital needs, maintain existing service levels—including fare-free service throughout the DASH system—and plan for the operating costs of future transitways while preserving regional connectivity.
- **Safe Routes to School/Complete Streets**: Ensure adequate staffing and resources to advance programs that deliver safe, accessible, and reliable infrastructure for all roadway users.

WMATA is a critical driver of regional economic competitiveness, connecting residents to jobs, businesses to a broader workforce and customer base, and communities to major employment centers throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. By providing a reliable alternative to driving, WMATA reduces traffic congestion, transportation costs, and greenhouse gas emissions while supporting sustainable land use. Continued investment in WMATA is essential to maintaining a strong regional economy and advancing long-term climate and sustainability goals. The Commission encourages the City Manager and staff to continue advocating for a dedicated, reliable and regionally supported funding source for this essential transportation system.

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Within the City, DASH's fare-free service has increased ridership year-over-year, demonstrating the demand for safe, reliable and affordable transportation. Continued investment in DASH is essential to maintain existing service levels and planning for the increased operating costs associated with multiple bus rapid transit lines.

Continued full funding of the Safe Routes to School and Complete Streets Program will support projects and initiatives that improve roadway safety and expand alternatives to driving. As the cost of living and economic pressures increase, access to transportation options reduces reliance on private vehicles and becomes increasingly more important. Educational outreach on safe biking, scooting, and other transportation options, such as the "Bicycling in the Schools" program, promotes safer behaviors, while infrastructure improvements delivered through these programs create safer roadways for all users.

The Commission views safe, comfortable, and economically and environmentally sustainable transportation as essential to the public good and central to realizing Alexandria's several adopted long-range plans which chart our community's vision (the Vision Zero Policy and Action Plan, 2017; the Environmental Action Plan, 2019; the Alexandria Mobility Plan, 2021; and the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan, 2023). Thank you for considering these priorities in your efforts to advance the City's strategic goals.

Sincerely,

Timothy Lovain
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Leah Riley, Director of Transportation & Environmental Services
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
Nicholas Rogers, Division Chief, Transportation & Environmental Services
Sara Brandt-Vorel, Transportation Capital Project Manager, Transportation & Environmental Services

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2026

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5 – CMAQ/RSTP GRANT APPLICATIONS

ISSUE: The City is proposing to apply for the FY 2033 CMAQ/RSTP Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission endorse a letter to City Council in support of the FY 2033 CMAQ/RSTP funding applications (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND: Since 1993, the Commonwealth of Virginia has allocated CMAQ and RSTP funding to the Northern Virginia region. CMAQ funded projects must meet three eligibility requirements: 1) have a transportation focus, 2) reduce air emissions, and 3) be located in or benefit a nonattainment or maintenance area.

RSTP funds are flexible funds that may be used for a variety of regional transportation activities, including but not limited to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, transit capital projects, and transportation or transit studies.

DISCUSSION: Staff propose submitting the projects listed below for FY 2033 funding. These projects, as well as the prior year CMAQ/RSTP funding awards are shown in Attachment 2.

The City's funding request for FY 2033 is up to $5.2M and includes the following projects:

FY 2033 CMAQ/RSTP Proposed Program

Project Name	**FY 2033**
Traffic Management Systems Modernization	$1,700,000
Mount Vernon Avenue and Glebe Road	$1,500,000
Duke Street and Route 1 Safety Improvements	$1,500,000
Multimodal Traffic Study	$500,000
TOTAL	**$5,200,000**

The amounts requested reflect current knowledge of potential grant funding available from NVTA in December 2026. Should future funds become available, staff would allocate additional funds towards eligible project costs and adhere to all grant reporting requirements and mandated guidelines.

Traffic Management Systems Modernization

This funding will build upon previous projects, such as the City's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) modernization efforts to improve traffic operations, reduce congestion, and enhance the efficiency and reliability of the transportation network. Potential improvements include upgrading traffic signal equipment, installing fiber optic cable to expand communications infrastructure, and connecting traffic signals and other transportation systems to support more coordinated and responsive traffic management. These investments will help optimize traffic flow, reduce delays and vehicle emissions, and improve safety for all roadway users. Specific project needs and improvements will be evaluated and prioritized prior to FY 2033, when funding becomes available.

Proposed Funding: Up to $1,700,000

Mount Vernon and Glebe Road

The intersection of Mount Vernon Avenue and Glebe Road was a community-prioritized location to advance multi-modal and transportation safety improvements, resulting in the redesign of the intersection. A new concept was approved by the Traffic and Parking Board in April 2024 and VDOT funding enabled initial technical design work to commence. Due to complex cost and construction coordination challenges, the project was deferred in November 2026 and funding returned to VDOT. The City remains committed to the project and seeks alternative funding to continue design and construction related activities in the future. The FY33 funding would be intended for design and pre-construction activities.

Proposed Funding: Up to $1,500,000

Duke Street and Route 1 Safety Improvements

Both Duke Street and Route 1 (Patrick and Henry Streets) were identified as high crash corridors in the City's Vision Zero Action Plan. This project seeks to implement long-term improvements identified in the Regional Road Safety Grant from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments several years ago. These include median islands, curb extensions, changes in lane configuration, and striping changes.

The project concepts were approved by the Traffic and Parking Board in FY 2024. The City has already appropriated design funds and previously received FY32 CMAQ/RSTP funds to cover a portion of project construction costs. This request would provide the remaining funding needed to complete construction.

Proposed Funding: Up to $1,500,000

Multimodal Traffic Study

The Department of Transportation works closely with Neighborhood Planning on Small Area Plans, which identify a shared vision for city growth and advancement. Many of these plans, such as the AlexWest Small Area Plan, the Duke Street Land Use Plan and potential corridor studies along key economic engines, such as King Street, identify locations for improved

connectivity through new streets or redesigned intersections and connections, making our transportation network safer. This funding would be used for feasibility studies within any or all of these potential areas to determine traffic impacts, costs, and concept designs that can be used to apply for future grant funding. The proposed location and needs will be assessed and determined prior to FY33.
Proposed Funding: Up to $500,000

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment 1: DRAFT Transportation Commission Endorsement Letter
Attachment 2: FY 2027- FY 2032 CMAQ/RSTP Approved and FY 2033 Proposed Funding

STAFF:
Nicholas Rogers, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, T&ES
Christina Alexander, Capital Projects Program Manager, T&ES
Sara Brandt-Vorel, Transportation Capital Project Manager, T&ES

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR FY 2033 CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY AND REGIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires that the City submit an application to Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for up to $5,200,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for FY 2033; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the grant application, $1,7,00,000 is requested to fund Traffic Management Systems Modernization across the City, $1,500,000 is requested to fund continued design and construction of safety improvements for the Mount Vernon Avenue and Glebe Road project, $1,500,000 of these funds are requested to fund safety improvements at the intersections of Duke Street and Route 1, and $500,000 requested to fund a Multimodal Traffic Study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports this application for an allocation of up to $5,200,000 in FY 2033 through CMAQ and RSTP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council hereby grants authority for the City Manager to apply for these funds, to accept such funds if awarded, including any funds that may be in excess of the application amount, and to execute project administration agreements, as well as other documents necessary for approved projects using these funds.

Adopted: December 8, 2026

_____
ALYIA GASKINS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____
Gloria A. Sitton
City Clerk

CMAQ/RSTP FY27-FY32 Program & FY33 Proposed									
Project Name	**PRIOR YEAR**	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**	**FY30**	**FY31**	**FY32**	**FY33 Proposed**	**PROJECT TOTAL**
West End Transitway Operations	$ -	$ -	$ 1,306,595	$ -	$ 2,301,784	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 3,608,379**
Duke Street Transitway Operations	$ -	$ 4,000,752	$ 3,760,204	$ 5,254,885	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 13,015,841**
Alexandria Bus Shelters FY 21	$ 2,186,753	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 2,186,753**
Transportation Demand Management	$ 7,426,658	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 7,426,658**
Alexandria Transit Store (Commuter Outreach)	$ 1,200,000	$ -	$ 200,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 1,400,000**
Bike Sharing Initiative	$ 2,932,279	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,000,000	$ -	**$ 3,932,279**
ITS Integration (SMART MOBILITY)	$ 8,038,495	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 8,038,495**
Traffic Management Systems Modernization	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,700,000	**$ 1,700,000**
SMART Mobility Implementation	$ 4,146,043	$ 1,118,974	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 5,265,017**
DASH Technology (CAD/AVL)	$ 3,220,869	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 3,220,869**
City of Alexandria Transportation Master Plan	$ 840,077	$ -	$ -	$ 897,367	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 1,737,444**
DASH Charging Equipment	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 1,000,000**
Mount Vernon Avenue North	$ 4,218,864	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,500,000	**$ 5,718,864**
Multimodal Study	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 500,000	$ -		$ 500,000	**$ 1,000,000**
Safe Routes to School - Commonwealth	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,496,677	$ 1,914,701	$ -	$ -	**$ 3,411,378**
Citywide Bus Bulbs	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,500,000	$ -	$ -	**$ 3,500,000**
King- Bradlee	$ 3,016,899	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 3,016,899**
Parking Technologies	$ 2,062,190	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 2,062,190**
Transit Analysis Study	$ 500,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 500,000**
Transitway Enhancements	$ 1,454,491	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 1,454,491**
Beauregard St Multi-Use Trail	$ 5,977,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 5,977,000**
Route 7 at Beauregard	$ 640,265	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 640,265**
Duke Street and Route 1 Safety	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,200,000	$ 1,500,000	**$ 4,700,000**
Safe Street Plan Update	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,000,000	$ -	**$ 1,000,000**
Scheduling Software for DASH	$ 394,313	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 394,313**
Duke and West Taylor Run	$ 492,186	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 492,186**
CMAQ/RSTP Subtotal	**$ 50,326,276**	**$ 5,119,726**	**$ 5,266,799**	**$ 6,152,252**	**$ 5,298,461**	**$ 5,414,701**	**$ 5,200,000**	**$ 5,200,000**	**$ 87,978,215**

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2026

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #6 – 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 2028–FY 2029 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 $21 million over the two-year grant cycle.

BACKGROUND: The I-395/95 Commuter Choice grant program was created to provide funding support for transportation projects that maximize person throughput in the corridor and improve overall mobility options. The program is managed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), which oversee the distribution of roughly $45 million in funding from I-395/95 Express Lane toll revenues.

Over the past eight years of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program, DASH and the City of Alexandria have received funding for two bus service enhancement projects: Line 35 (Van Dorn Metro to Pentagon via Beauregard Street) and Lines 36A/B (Mark Center to Potomac Yard via Shirlington). These projects increased service frequency and hours of operation and included specially branded buses and real-time passenger information displays. In a more recent funding cycle, DASH also received funding to purchase two 60-foot battery-electric buses, which have since been delivered to increase passenger capacity on Line 35.

As a result of these service improvements, Line 35 and 36A/B ridership has increased dramatically, and they have been two of the more successful projects in the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program. Line 35 has become the highest ridership route in the DASH system, with over 7,000 boardings on a typical weekday and nearly 4,000 boardings on a typical Saturday or Sunday. Over the past two years, both routes have grown by 1,000 boardings a day and together represent one-third of systemwide DASH weekly ridership. Average daily ridership on Line 36A/B has risen to more than 3,000 boardings on weekdays and 1,800 boardings on Saturdays and Sundays.

DISCUSSION: Staff propose to submit three applications for the FY 2028–FY 2029 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program. Two are “continuation” applications that will enable DASH to

continue operating the enhancements in the two corridors that currently receive funding. The third is a capital project to upgrade transit facilities at Southern Towers.

While the FY 2028–FY 2029 project extensions represent a moderate increase in requested funds due to increased operating costs, these grants would enable DASH to continue operating several key service improvements recommended in the 2022 Alexandria Transit Vision Plan that would otherwise require a major increase to the City's annual operating subsidy.

Project 1 – Enhanced Bus Service from Van Dorn Metro to Pentagon (Line 35) – Up to $11,000,000

Project 1 is the proposed priority project, as it was in the first four rounds, and would fund the continuation of the service expansions for DASH Line 35, which operates parallel to I-395 in West Alexandria. With this request for up to $11 million over two years, Line 35 would continue to run every 10 minutes all day on weekdays and every 15 minutes all day on weekends. This project builds on recent ridership growth along the future West End Transitway corridor, could serve as a future source of operations funding for the transitway, and continues to support implementation of the Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan. No additional buses are required. Line 35 service enhancements are expected to cost up to $5,500,000 in each of FY 2028 and FY 2029.

Project 2 – Enhanced Bus Service from Mark Center to Potomac Yard (Line 36A/B) – Up to $7,000,000

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. With this request for up to $7 million over two years, Line 36A/B would continue to run every 15 minutes all day, seven days per week. This project builds on recent ridership growth, provides a strong connection to the Potomac Yard-VT Metrorail Station, and continues to support implementation of the ATV Plan. No additional buses are required. Line 36A/B service enhancements are expected to cost up to $3,500,000 in each of FY 2028 and FY 2029.

Project 3 – Southern Towers Bus Stop Enhancements – Up to $3,000,000

The City is seeking grant funding to improve six existing bus stops at Southern Towers serving DASH Lines 35, 36A, 36B, and 102 and Metrobus Routes A27, A29, A76, and F20. Existing stops have safety and accessibility deficiencies, including parking within boarding areas, inadequate pedestrian crossings, and insufficient ADA-accessible boarding platforms. The project would expand the two northern stops near The Graham with concrete bus bulbs, new shelters, and passenger amenities to accommodate West End Transitway and future Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit service connecting to Mark Center. It would also consolidate the central stops in front of The Sherwood into enhanced eastern stops near The Stratford serving local buses.

This project replaces the Southern Towers Transit Center originally planned with SMART SCALE funding. Because the property owner would not dedicate the right-of-way needed for that facility, the City is returning approximately $10 million in SMART SCALE funds and pursuing these more targeted improvements at existing stops instead. The current concept would add shelters, lighting, real-time arrival displays, high-visibility crosswalks, and bikeshare, and would remove approximately 31 parking spaces. The City is coordinating with Southern Towers ownership to

secure the easements needed for construction and continued transit operations, and staff are refining the scope and cost estimate before the application deadline.

Following further discussions with the grantors, the City may combine Projects 1 and 3 if doing so would strengthen the competitiveness of the applications. Applications are due to NVTC on December 18, 2026, and City Council will consider a resolution supporting the applications in December.

FISCAL IMPACT: The City and DASH are applying for up to $21,000,000 in combined grant funding over two years for these projects, and there is no local match requirement. If the City and DASH do not receive funding through this program, the frequency of bus service on these routes and some service areas would be reduced to the baseline levels included in the FY 2024 operating budget. Line 36A/B service would revert from every 15 minutes to every 30 minutes all day, seven days per week, while Line 35 service would be reduced from every 10–15 minutes to every 15–30 minutes, with fewer trips to the Pentagon. These reductions would lead to longer wait times and significant overcrowding for DASH passengers who rely on these routes. Should the City not receive funding for Southern Towers, staff will continue to seek alternative funding strategies.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Letter of Support

ATTACHMENT 1

Alexandria Transportation Commission

301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | www.alexandriava.gov | Phone: 703.746.4025

November 18, 2026

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

Re: Endorsement of Applications for FY 2028–FY 2029 I-395/95 NVTC Commuter Choice Grant

Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of City Council:

At its November 18, 2026 meeting, the Alexandria Transportation Commission voted to endorse the three applications from DASH and the City of Alexandria for the FY 2028–FY 2029 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program, for a total of up to $21 million over two years.

Project 1, the top priority, would continue the enhanced DASH Line 35 service between Van Dorn Metro and the Pentagon, for up to $11 million. Line 35 operates parallel to I-395 every 10 minutes on weekdays and every 15 minutes on weekends. It is now DASH's highest-ridership route, with more than 7,000 boardings on a typical weekday, and it builds ridership along the future West End Transitway corridor.

Project 2, the second priority, would continue the enhanced DASH Line 36A/B service between Mark Center and Potomac Yard via Shirlington, for up to $7 million. Service every 15 minutes, seven days a week, has grown weekday ridership to more than 3,000 boardings and provides a strong connection to the Potomac Yard-VT Metrorail Station.

Project 3, the third priority, would upgrade bus stops at Southern Towers, for up to $3 million. Southern Towers is a major transfer point served by four DASH lines and four Metrobus routes, and its existing stops lack accessible boarding platforms and safe pedestrian crossings. The project would provide accessible boarding areas, shelters, real-time information, and improved crossings, and would prepare the site for the West End Transitway and future Envision Route 7 bus rapid transit.

The Transportation Commission recommends that City Council support these funding requests. These projects would sustain the ridership gains achieved with prior Commuter Choice funding and avoid service reductions on two of DASH's busiest routes.

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,

Tim Lovain
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission; James F. Parajon, City Manager; Leah Riley, Director, T&ES; Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES; Nicholas Rogers, Division Chief, T&ES; Jordan Exantus, Transit Program Manager, T&ES; Josh Baker, General Manager/CEO, DASH

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2028

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 7 – COMPLETE STREETS, VISION ZERO, SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL, AND TRAILS UPDATE

ISSUE: Staff update to the Transportation Commission on the Complete Streets, Vision Zero, Safe Routes to School, and Multi-Use Trail programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the update.

BACKGROUND: In 2017, the City adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan to support the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries in Alexandria by 2028. Each year, staff provides a progress report to the Transportation Commission on the Vision Zero, Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School, and Multi-Use Trails Programs.

DISCUSSION: Staff continues to advance key projects to improve mobility, access, and traffic safety for all road users. Key project highlights from Fiscal Year 2026 include:

- Implementation of projects on corridors totaling over 8 miles, including:
  - Sanger Avenue Safety Improvements
  - Mill Road Bike Lanes
  - Holland Lane Corridor Improvements
  - King Street Improvements at ACHS
- Advanced design for:
  - South Pickett Street Corridor Improvements
  - Yoakum Parkway Improvements
  - Crossing Improvements Near Schools Phase I
  - North Beauregard Street Multi-Use Trail
- Approval of conceptual plans for:
  - East Braddock Road Corridor Improvements
- Advanced planning for:
  - West End High-Crash Intersection Audits
  - Seminary West Safety Improvements
  - West Braddock Road and North Howard Street Improvements
  - Russell Road Safe Routes to School Project

- Speed limit reductions on two streets:
    - Edsall Road
    - Yoakum Parkway
- Securing three grants to support roadway safety:
    - Crossing Improvements Near Schools, Phase II
    - Mount Vernon Avenue Safety Study
    - Bicycle Connectivity Improvements

In Fiscal Year 2027, work will continue across numerous projects, including, but not limited to:

- West End High Crash Intersection Audits
- Seminary West Safety Improvements
- Mount Vernon Avenue Safety Study
- Braddock Road Safety Improvements
- Braddock Road and North Howard Street Improvements
- Jordan Street Improvements

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 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. Capital Projects Update

- The **Van Dorn Shared Use path** project was awarded to a contractor and will start construction in Winter 2026.
- The **King Beauregard Intersection** improvements project has been awarded to a contractor and will start construction in Winter 2027.
- **T-Intersections** and **Citywide Transit Signal Priority** projects have completed final design and are awaiting VDOT authorization to advertise for construction, with both projects anticipated to begin construction in late Winter 2026/Early Winter 2027.

B. 2027 Transportation Commission Schedule

- January 20, 2027
- February – No Meeting
- March 17, 2027
- *April 14, 2027 (Passover starts at sundown on the 21st)
- May 19, 2027
- June 16, 2027
- July – No Meeting
- August – No Meeting
- September 15, 2027
- October 20, 2027
- November 17, 2027
- December 15, 2027

C. Carshare Policy Update

The City's current carshare program was approved through Resolution No. 2540 in 2013 and is limited to on-street parking in Old Town and Carlyle. Under the existing program, carshare companies pay $2,300 per designated space in Old Town and $1,500 per space in Carlyle, with fees established in 2013. The current ordinance only permits stationary carshare, meaning vehicles must be parked in a designated space paid for by the carshare company when not in use. Free-floating carshare, which allows users to pick up a vehicle in one location and drop it off in another, is permitted in Arlington and Washington, D.C., but not currently in Alexandria.

Staff is proposing a new chapter of the City Code under Title 9, Licensing and Regulation, for Council consideration in December. The proposed changes would expand stationary carshare to locations throughout the city and establish fees for on-street carshare spaces that are commensurate with local parking demand, while also encouraging companies to request additional spaces to improve citywide coverage. The proposal would also align Alexandria's free-floating carshare regulations with those of Arlington and Washington, D.C., reducing barriers to regional access and encouraging greater use of the service.

Under the proposed regulations, free-floating carshare companies and their customers would not be required to pay parking meter fees or comply with posted parking time restrictions, regardless of whether a vehicle is parked within a Residential Parking Permit (RPP) District. However, companies would be prohibited from deploying free-floating vehicles within RPP Districts. Similar to the City's Shared Micromobility regulations, the ordinance would also allow the City to establish requirements governing how and where free-floating vehicles may be parked.

D. Southern Towers Update

The City is proposing to return approximately $10 million in SMART SCALE funding for the Southern Towers Transit Center because the property owner will not provide the right-of-way needed for the original design. Staff are instead pursuing I-395 Commuter Choice funding for improvements at existing stops, including accessible bus bulbs, shelters, passenger amenities, and crosswalks, while coordinating with ownership on necessary easements. This approach offers a faster path to better facilities for residents while preserving the long-term vision for a transit center through future redevelopment.