

**Ad Hoc Commercial Transportation Tax Option Study Committee  
Meeting of February 14, 2008**

Members Present: John Renner, Lois Walker, Paul Friedman

City Staff Present: Cindy Smith-Page, Mark Jinks, Laura Triggs, Bryan Page

Public Present: Bud Miller, Marsha Miller

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The minutes of February 4 were approved as presented

Under the public comments agenda, Bud Miller of the Alexandria Taxpayers United presented a copy of an on line petition against the add-on commercial property tax for transportation. The on line petition had 180 names with comments made by some of the on line petitioners. The petition will be posted on line with the other Ad Hoc Committee materials. The Committee members discussed the petition with Mr. Miller and the rationale for being against the tax.

At the request of the Committee, Mark Jinks detailed the State enabling authority on special tax districts, and provided examples of where it has been used in other jurisdictions (such as financing the Route 28 road project in Fairfax County). He also explained that the special tax district option was listed as a potential financing mechanism for Metrorail station improvements in the Eisenhower East Small Area Plan, and potential Metrorail station construction in the Potomac Yard CDD Plan.

The Committee and staff discussed what projects could potentially be funded with the initial funding from the add-on tax. Feasibility studies for the Landmark Van Dorn plan, or for assisting in funding the Eisenhower station platform extension were discussed. Mr. Jinks explained that any taxes collected would be held in trust and used for transportation purposes only, and that funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year would remain in trust and roll over and be dedicated for transportation purposes in the following year.

The Committee discussed Mr. Renner's memo of February 11 which had been provided to the Committee. City staff provided information in response to the memo. The Committee then discussed the draft memo that Mr. Friedman had prepared as a way of beginning to frame the Committee's eventual recommendations. The Committee then discussed the NVTA funding formulae and how the 40% allocation is impacted by the levying of a commercial add-on property tax by a locality (i.e., some of the 40% dollars become 60% dollars but remain allocated for City projects). The Committee discussed what the principles might be that would be part of its recommendations.

Mr. Jinks indicated that City Council had requested that the Committee (or a Committee representative) present the Committee's recommendations to Council at City Council's March 11 legislative meeting.

The Committee set their next meeting for February 22, with Mr. Renner and Ms. Walker indicating that they could not attend. Ms. Walker was scheduled to be out of the country and Mr. Renner had a prior commitment. Given those planned absence, for the Committee's record, Mr. Renner indicated that he was against levying the tax and Ms. Walker indicated that she was for levying the tax, but at a rate no higher than 2-cents and only if there was no relief for small businesses. *(in response to statements that had been raised when the public read the draft minutes on line, Ms. Walker indicated as an owner of commercial property that is leased to businesses that her practice is not to directly pass through real estate taxes in her leases).*

The Committee adjourned at 9:30 pm

(Note because of an a previously unknown business schedule conflict, the Committee did not have a quorum on February 22 , and it appears will hold its final meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm).