

# Motorcoach Task Force

February 17, 2009  
Waterfront Committee

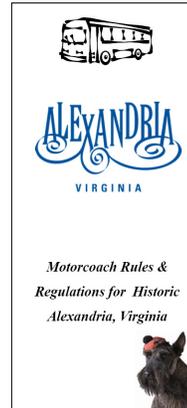
City of Alexandria, Virginia

## Agenda

- Background
- About the Task Force
  - Primary Issues and Citizen Input
- Recommendations & Framework
  - Short-term/actionable items
  - Long-term management
- Next Steps & Process
- Q&A

## Background

- Primary season March-June with range of estimates for # of coaches visiting
- 6 loading/unloading locations, 2 short-term parking, 1 long-term (w/fee)
- No routes, idling unclear (15 minutes), little guidance
- Previous efforts to address motorcoaches



## About the Task Force



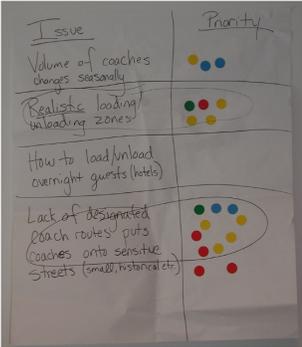
- Appointed by City Manager in May 2008
- 15 members
  - 5 residents
  - 5 business/industry
  - 5 from City Council and Staff (Mayor Euille, Councilman Smedberg, Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, T&ES and Police)

## About the Task Force: Charter & Mission

Working collaboratively with multiple stakeholders, the Task Force will develop a proactive approach to motorcoach management that recognizes the economic value of the industry and balances its operational needs with measures to limit intrusive effects on Alexandria's neighborhoods, historic resources, the environment, quality of life, traffic and parking. The Task Force will review best practices and build consent on measures that balance the multiple interests of the City with regards to the public health, safety and welfare of the community. Ultimately, the Task Force will recommend a motorcoach management plan to City Council.

## About the Task Force: Key Issues

-  Lack of designated routes puts coaches on sensitive streets/safety (short-term)
-  Lack of short-term & overnight parking (short-term and long-term)
-  Enforcement (short- and long-term)
-  Loading & Unloading (short-term)
-  Communications/Education (short-term)



| Issue  | Priority                 |
|--|--------------------------|
| Volume of coaches changes seasonally   | Blue, Green, Yellow      |
| Realistic loading/unloading zones  | Blue, Green, Yellow, Red |
| How to load/unload overnight guests (hotels)   | Blue, Green, Yellow, Red |
| Lack of designated coach routes puts coaches onto sensitive streets (small, historical etc.) | Blue, Green, Yellow, Red |

## About the Task Force: We're Listening to OTCA and Citizen Input

- OTCA “Statement of Constraints”
- Membership meeting on October 8
  - Idling, Crawling, Too Many Buses, Size, Noise, Signage...
- Additional civic association input
  - Old & Historic Residents Group
  - Tobacco Quay, Founders Park, North Old Town Independent Citizens



## Developing Short & Long Term Recommendations

- Focus on immediate incremental changes:
  - Enforcement
  - Education/Communications
  - Minor route, loading & parking improvements
- City getting into motorcoach management
  - Conducting Counts
  - Developing System for Registration
  - Managing Certain Types of Trips

# Framework for Motorcoach Management



## Guiding Principles for Framework

- Citizens seek more regulatory regime but not eliminate all motorcoach traffic
- Tourism & motorcoach-related business is critical to the long-term health of Alexandria



1. System must include fee-based registration
2. Voluntary at first – but authority within 2-3 years
3. System must limit impacts from certain trip types
4. System must use a system of managed dispersal to bring buses into Old Town with little adverse impact

## Unresolved Issues

- How to Manage “Touring” & “Transportation” trips
- Smaller Vehicles
- Designated Routes

## Framework >> Bottom Line

- In the short-term >> Enforcement of existing code only
- Compliance will require cooperation of industry & residents
- Use methods of dispersal to reduce impact and provide access to businesses
- Seasonal approaches
- Sightseeing routes remain problematic

## Short-Term Recommendations

1. To encourage continuity and transparency, staff should provide quarterly updates to the Ad Hoc Motorcoach Task Force as currently constituted. The Task Force will reconvene in the future to review long-term motorcoach management strategies.
2. Instruct staff to conduct counts of motorcoach operations in Alexandria in 2009.
  - A longer-term goal will be to implement an on-line motorcoach registration or permitting system by March 2010 to include fees and daily limitations on certain types of motorcoach trips.
3. Permanently designate the unit block of King Street one-way westbound to allow for safer traffic flow and provide better motorcoach management.
4. Designate the south side of Jamieson Avenue between Holland Lane and South West Street as short-term (2 hour) motorcoach parking between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm. Spaces on Jamieson Avenue will provide new short-term motorcoach parking in addition to existing short-term parking on North Union Street at Robinson Terminal and on the 900 block of North St. Asaph Street.
5. Designate new 30-minute motorcoach parking spaces in the following locations:
  - Two spaces at 112-118 North Washington Street
  - Two spaces at 110-112 South Washington Street
6. Instruct the Alexandria Police Department to more aggressively enforce existing city ordinances with respect to motorcoach traffic and collect/report data related to motorcoach violations.
7. Continue funding the Alexandria Police Department in its transportation management efforts on the unit block of King Street.

## Questions & Discussion

[www.alexandriava.gov/motorcoach](http://www.alexandriava.gov/motorcoach)

Thank you.

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