



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

June 5, 2013
7:00 p.m.
City Council Work Room

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Kerry Donley, Councilman Lovain, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Louisa Ward, Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Carrie Beach - P&Z, Mark Jinks - CMO, Joel Marcuson – T&ES, Marti Reinfeld - T&ES, Lee Farmer – T&ES, Carrie Sanders – T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Karen Callahan – T&ES, Raymond Mui - DASH, Andre Stafford - DASH

The Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1. **May 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Mitchell asked if there were any comments or edits regarding the May 2013 meeting minutes. Kevin Posey made a motion to approve the minutes. Kerry Donley seconded the motion. There being no objections, the minutes were voted on and unanimously approved.

2. **Funding Update**

T&ES staff, Marti Reinfeld reported City Council approved the budget on May 6, 2013. A number of priorities of the Transportation Commission were included in the adopted budget.

City Council: Endorsed WMATA's strategic plan *Momentum* on May 14, 2013.

Adopted Title VI program for City as a subrecipient of FTA Funds on May 28, 2013.

DRPT: General Assembly passed legislation requiring new transit funding to be allocated based on performance; The Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) formed to develop methodology and indicators; Currently reviewing types of performance indicators and data needs; and Conceptual methodology by June 17th, 2013.

Commonwealth Transportation Board: Released draft Six-Year Plan. Public hearing held on May 29, 2013. The City submitted written testimony with oral testimony provided by Mayor Euille; and the goal is to adopt the plan on June 19, 2013.

TPB: Board briefed on changes to regional commuting patterns. Update provided on TPB Regional Priorities Plan.

WMATA: The Board was briefed on the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway on May 9, 2013.

NVTC: Presentation on WMATA's strategic plan given on May 5, 2013. NVTC is working with FTA funding sub recipients to adopt Title VI plans.

NVTA: Update from working groups implementing new transportation legislation. Released the FY2014 list of projects for public comment.

- 3. Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Project List – PUBLIC HEARING**
- T&ES staff Marti Reinfeld gave a brief overview of the workings of the NVTA. Ms. Reinfeld reported that HB2313 levies new taxes and a fee in districts meeting certain criteria. The funds must be used for projects that increase mass transit capacity or provide congestion relief. In Northern Virginia, additional revenues are deposited into the NVTA fund. Thirty percent of the revenues are distributed directly to member localities for use on transportation projects which is anticipated to generate ~\$6M/year for the City and 70% are used for regional transportation projects which are anticipated to generate ~\$16M/year for the City. Each member jurisdiction submitted candidate projects for the FY2014 regional (70%) funds. Projects are ranked based on several criteria. The amount of revenue distributed by NVTA will vary annually. HB2313 stipulated that over the long term, the amount of revenue a jurisdiction generates should be proportionate to the benefit it receives. Alexandria projects that are currently on under consideration but require additional funding is DASH Bus Expansion: \$3.25M; Traffic Signal Upgrades/Transit Signal Priority: \$0.7M; Shelters and Real-Time Information for DASH/WMATA: \$0.5M; Potomac Yard EIS: \$2.0M; VRE/King Street Metrorail Tunnel: \$1.3M.

Chair Jennifer Mitchell opened the Public Hearing. Gail Parker, a citizen of Fairfax County spoke in favor of moving forward with rail projects that serve densely populated areas. She indicated that rail travel is important in order to move people within and out of the metropolitan area. Rail conserves energy, reduces traffic, and improves the environment. She supports rail to Fort Belvoir and other rail projects. Jerry King, Chair of the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) indicated he supports mass transit and multi-modal transportation projects, including projects such as safe sidewalks, crosswalks, and bicycle facilities such as bike lanes, cycle tracks bike share, and bike parking. These include the 2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan and projects that get people to mass transit.

After questions for staff and Commissioner discussion, the Transportation Commission passed a motion to recommend the staff supported projects, with the understanding that the AMTRAK surface lot was being removed and that \$500,000 be added to the project list to construct bike parking near the waterfront with covered bike shelters.

4. State 6-Year Plan

T&ES staff Marti Reinfeld reported on the State 6-Year Plan. She indicated the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) released its draft Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) on May 15, 2013. A Public Hearing was held in Northern Virginia on May 29, 2013. Staff is anticipating adoption on June 19, 2013. For FY2014, the Draft SYIP includes \$9.2M for City projects. For FY2015-19, it includes \$22.4M for City projects. New projects receiving funding are the Eisenhower Avenue Resurfacing, Pedestrian Bike Improvements, and Corridor C (Van Dorn/Beauregard). Additional funding for VDOT projects within the City are the I-395 HOV Ramp at Seminary Road and the I-395 Auxiliary Lane. The City provided comments for State funding of projects. The City expressed gratitude for Potomac Yard Metro funding and urged the State to prioritize bike/ped projects in new Transportation Alternatives funding source. Stated the City does not support converting I-395 HOV lanes to HOT lanes within the City and requested that surplus funds from the HOV/transit ramp at I-395 be reserved to widening the I-395 bridge over Sanger Avenue to permit exclusive transit lanes on Sanger Avenue and fire suppression issue on Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

5. Corridor C AA/EA (Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment) Status

T&ES staff Lee Farmer reported that the Alexandria Transportation Master Plan identified three transit corridors; Corridors A, B and C. Corridor A is underway and will run north and south on Route 1. Corridor B is along Duke Street. Corridor C will begin at the Van Dorn Metrorail station through Landmark and Beauregard Avenue, Mark Center and eventually to the Pentagon. Capital costs will be approximately \$129M. Over \$25M in local and grant funding is identified in City CIP and developer contributions have been identified in the Beauregard Small Area Plan. It is anticipated by 2035 weekday ridership will total 12,500 - 17,500 daily. The City has identified the need for additional Federal funding that requires an Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment (AA/EA). The AA evaluates several alternatives, provides information on benefits, costs, and impacts, so that a locally preferred alternative can be identified. The EA evaluates potential transportation, social, economic, and environmental effects. A Request For Proposal was issued on April 26th for proposals to be submitted May 30th.

6. Capital Bikeshare

T&ES staff Carrie Sanders gave a brief history and update of Capital Bikeshare. Ms. Sanders stated that Arlington launched with 14 bikeshare stations in 2010 and added 36 stations for a total of 50 Capital Bikeshare stations. The District of Columbia launched in 2010 with 100 stations, and has added over 40 stations. The City launched with 8 stations this year and anticipates a minimum of 25 additional stations and continues to get requests for additional stations. Montgomery County will join the program this summer, launching with 50 stations in southern Montgomery County. The District of Columbia reaches full cost recovery; Arlington's cost recovery was at 54% in its first year; and Alexandria has exceeded anticipated cost recovery goals at 50% revenue recovery in the first 7 months. In 2013-2014, the City will expand the solar panel powered system into Carlyle, Del Ray, and other parts of Old Town with an additional eight stations being added in 2013 and more stations are planned for 2014.

7. Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP) Update

Chair Jennifer Mitchell stated she and Kevin Posey, who encompass the LRP Subcommittee, met and prioritized the new projects using the approved LRP prioritization criteria. T&ES Staff Steve Sindiong reported the updates include 7 new projects. Mr. Sindiong presented the prioritized rankings of the draft 2013 LRP based on a Commission scoring exercise. The LRP is an unconstrained list of all transportation related capital projects, programs and studies identified in City plans and policies. Projects on the LRP have no identified funding source. Once projects on the LRP receive partial or full funding, they are moved from the unconstrained LRP to the City's CIP. A public hearing on the LRP project update will be held during the July 10, 2013 Commission meeting. A recommendation from the Commission on the LRP update is anticipated following the public hearing.

8. Staff Updates

The Commission received written staff updates on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, Route 1 Transitway and DASH Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA).

9. Commission Updates

The Chair reminded the Commission that the next Commission meeting is being held on July 10 due to the July 4 holiday.

At 8:45 pm, there being no further business, Commissioner Donley made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Wasowski and unanimously approved.