



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

July 10, 2013
7:00 p.m.
City Council Work Room

MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Carrie Beach - P&Z, Karen Callaham – T&ES, Joel Marcuson – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Raymond Mui - DASH, Marti Reinfeld -T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Lee Farmer – T&ES, Andre Stafford - DASH

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

1. **June 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Mitchell asked if there were any comments or edits regarding the June 2013 meeting minutes. John Komoroske made a motion to approve the minutes. Kerry Donley seconded the motion. There being objections, the minutes were voted on and unanimously approved.

2. **Funding Update**

Commissioner Kerry Donley made a motion that the Commission write a letter to NVT A outlining the City’s rationale in having a public hearing (June 5, 2013) on the NVT A project list. The letter should request that the NVT A honor the endorsement of the Bike parking project that was recommended by the Commission at its June 5, 2013 meeting. In addition, staff should also coordinate a response from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Komoroske, voted on by the Commission and unanimously approved. T&ES staff, Marti Reinfeld reported the following.

City Council: Adopted resolution to proceed with acquisition of Right-Of-Way for Eisenhower Avenue widening on June 11, 2013, adopted resolution supporting Union Station pedestrian tunnel and passed amendment to City code on June 25, 2013 related to operation of bicycles within the City.

DRPT: The General Assembly passed legislation requiring new transit funding to be allocated based on performance. The Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) was

formed to develop methodology and indicators and met throughout June to identify methods for utilizing performance metrics.

Commonwealth Transportation Board: Adopted the FY 2014-19 Six Year Improvement Program on June 19.

TPB: Approved an Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Freedom grant to the City for pedestrian mobility enhancements in Old Town on June 19.

WMATA: Adopted the Momentum strategic plan on June 27, 2013 and staff provided a progress report on third quarter capital and operating programs on June 13, 2013.

NVTC: Adopted WMATA's Momentum strategic plan on June 6, 2013 and endorsed Title VI submittal to FTA, which included Alexandria's submission as a sub-recipient.

NVTA: Held a public hearing on June 20, 2013 for FY 2014 projects for regional funding.

3. Long Range Plan Update – PUBLIC HEARING

T&ES staff Sandra Marks reiterated that the Long Range Plan (LRP) consists of a project list, studies list and a program list. The Transportation Commission's LRP Subcommittee met in late May and prioritized the new projects using the approved LRP prioritization criteria. T&ES staff Steve Sindiong noted that at its June 5, 2013 meeting, the full Commission reviewed the priorities for the new projects. At that time, the Commission requested that staff look into whether other transportation projects in the vicinity of the Glebe Road bridge project are planned, such as in Arlington County. In addition, the Commission asked that staff re-rank the new projects list to include Commissioner Lovain's scores.

Chair Mitchell stated that when prioritizing LRP projects, the criteria should be re-examined to ensure that the results are balanced and consistent with the Transportation Master Plan. Discussions ensued on the LRP projects. Mayor Euille reported that there will be a joint Arlington County/Alexandria meeting in Fall 2013 and that the Glebe Road Bridge project should be added to the discussion to elevate it and start to pave the way for future funding. The Public Hearing was opened and there were no comments. Commissioner Donley made a motion to approve the draft 2013 LRP with changes discussed, including combining the Four Mile Run Bridge with the Glebe Road Bridge project and having a priority of number 3. Also, for the 2014 LRP update, staff should ensure that the priority rankings by the Commission include the re-evaluation of the 2013 projects. The motion was seconded by John Komoroske and unanimously approved by the Commission.

4. Route 1 Transitway Update and Branding

T&ES staff Marti Reinfeld stated that since 1999, the City and Arlington County have been working jointly to develop and implement improved transit services in the Crystal City/Potomac Yard area based on recommendations of the Crystal City/Potomac Yard Area Transportation Study. In March 2003, the Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis was completed, which recommended that the project should be advanced with bus rapid transit (BRT) as the locally preferred alternative. This concept was further refined during the Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transit Corridor Interim Transit Improvement Project, completed in December 2005.

Construction of the Transitway between the Pentagon City and Braddock Road Metrorail stations is underway. The five-mile corridor will offer reliable, premium transit service by providing

dedicated transit lanes, frequent service, transit signal priority, off-board fare collection, level boarding, boarding at all doors, and real-time passenger information. The service will be operated by WMATA and will be the first BRT service implemented in the metropolitan Washington region.

The City, Arlington County, and WMATA staff has been cooperating on an effort to develop a branding scheme for the corridor and for the new premium transit service that will operate along the Transitway. WMATA retained Pulsar Advertising to conduct the study and to develop a brand identity that would communicate the unique attributes of the service. The brand could be expanded throughout the region as premium transit service is implemented in other jurisdictions.

Pulsar developed several naming concepts for the service and the corridor based on interviews with members of a study group and background research on existing WMATA, regional transit brands and a March 2013 online survey. The findings indicated a preference for the name Metroway; a preference for the color blue as a vehicle design; a preference for station signage featuring the Metro “M”; and a preference for the corridor name to be geographically-based that identifies where the service runs. Ms. Reinfeld will follow up to check if the vehicle and shelter color will be the same.

5. Staff Updates

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

6. Commission Updates

Councilman Lovain reported that the Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition will have a July 25 public meeting at the Skyline Technology Center on the NVTC Route 7 Study. There will also be another meeting on the preliminary alternatives on September 18, 2013. The study looks at transit alternatives for the Route 7 corridor. Chair Mitchell stated that staff indicated that State funding allocated through NVTA for CMAQ and RSTP funds should receive a broader analysis for projects across the board and not just move forward on the previous year’s recommendations and come up with new recommendations. Project eligibility for NVTA funding should play a major role. Chair Mitchell reminded the Commission that the next Commission meeting is being held on September 9, 2013 due to the holiday and the DASH public meeting that first week in September.

At 8:35 pm, there being no further business, Chair Mitchell made a motion to adjourn which was seconded and unanimously approved.