



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

April 2, 2014
7:00 p.m.
City Council Work Room

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Kerry Donley, Nate Macek, and Maria Wasowski, Councilman Tim Lovain

Staff Present: Carrie Beach - P&Z, Karen Callaham – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Hillary Poole - T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Raymond Mui - DASH

Commissioner Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:10 pm. There not being a quorum of members, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the members in attendance that as a group, they remain supportive of the two public hearing items as adopted by Council and directed staff to submit a letter to Council reflecting their support.

1. March 2014 Meeting Minutes

There not being a quorum, it was decided the March minutes would be voted on during the May meeting.

2. Updates To Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received updates on the Funding Update, Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, Route 1 Transitway, Corridor C Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment, Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study and Capital Bikeshare. Commissioner Wasowski inquired about the informational signage for the Route 1 Transitway. Staff reported signage will be in place in advance of the Transitway opening. Chair Macek suggested that for the Commission updates, new information should be highlighted or italicized to stand out to avoid having to read background information which should be at the end of each update. Chair Macek also stated he felt during the Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study Public Meeting, the consultants did not include key questions that need to be asked. Questions should include: whether to make a shared street, what will it look like, is it seasonal, and is there an initial plan versus a longer

term strategy. Staff indicated an internal meeting amongst City staff is planned to look at the concepts and refine them to bring back to the next public meeting.

3. FY2015-24 CIP – Public Hearing

Due to the lack of a quorum, there was not an official public hearing. T&ES staff Sandra Marks gave an overview of the draft FY 2015 – FY 2024 Transportation Budget. As part of the budget process, a ten-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is developed which programs funding for major capital projects in the City. Funding for the CIP comes from the City's general fund, grants and other non-City sources of funding including developer contributions. As new funding is available for transportation projects, staff has followed the Transportation Commission guidance and shifted some projects from the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to different funding sources. This allows for funding in the TIP for both expansion operations (e.g., DASH expansion) and deferred road maintenance (e.g., street resurfacing). Projects that were previously funded by cash capital or General Obligation bonds can now be fully or partially funded by some combination of Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) or TIP funds, easing pressure on the General Fund. In addition, by shifting projects to new revenue sources, staff is able to eliminate borrowing in the TIP, and saving considerable money over the 10-year plan by reducing debt service payments. The final Council budget vote and Tax Rate Adoption will be May 2014. The Commission agreed to send a letter to Council stating that the Commission members present are supportive of the City Manager's draft budget, but noting concern about the lack of adequate staff resources to procure and deliver projects in a timely manner.

4. Complete Streets Update – Public Hearing

Due to the lack of a quorum, there was not an official public hearing. T&ES staff Hillary Poole gave an update on the Complete Streets Program. A key aspect of the Complete Streets Program is public outreach. In 2013, City staff met with 15 neighborhood associations, attended Commission, Board & Committee meetings, held four public hearings, added 20 new project and resource webpages, and received 26 requests from Call.Click.Connect. Accomplishments during 2013 include Silver Level Designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the American League of Bicyclists, conducted Complete Streets Training for City staff, received a \$400,000 New Freedom Grant for pedestrian improvements at transit stops, developed a Complete Streets checklist to ensure Complete Streets compliance for all new development, updated the Bicycle Parking Guidelines for new development, requiring a Complete Streets tabulation placed on the cover page for all development plans submitted to City Council for approval, and updated the City's brick sidewalk policy.

A number of Complete Streets infrastructure improvements have taken place over the last year that include redesigned streets completed through resurfacing projects, new sidewalks, and a number of crosswalk and crossing signal improvements. In addition, the City has completed twelve of twenty on-street bicycle facility designs, one bicycle box intersection, and 100 new bicycle parking spaces. Community outreach meetings for projects underway will begin in May 2014. Staff is also exploring the creation of a Complete Streets Compliance subcommittee to help staff prioritize Complete Streets projects and ensure compliance with the policy. Staff will

update City Council on the Complete Streets Program on May 13, 2014. The Commission agreed to send a letter to Council stating that the Commission members present remain supportive of the Complete Streets policy and program as adopted by the Council, and urge the Council to reenact the Complete Streets policy.

5. Commission Updates

Transportation Commission and subcommittee appointments will be discussed at the May meeting. A resolution to establish the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee will be presented to Council at their April 8, 2014 meeting. The next Parking Task Force meeting is April 9, 2014.

6. DASH Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) Update

TMD, Inc., the City's contractor, gave an update on the DASH COA study. The study includes an evaluation of all existing data and previous studies, new data based on current service, and development of unconstrained short and long range recommendations to improve and expand service in the future. The goal is to develop and prioritize short and long range solutions to improve the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) network. The civic engagement process has included interviews with stakeholders, an on-board rider survey, a telephone survey, an on-line survey, and two public meetings held on September 11, 2013 at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center and September 12, 2013 at Landmark Mall. A Market Analysis report was prepared to determine transit demand based on market segmentation, travel patterns and transit competitiveness. Also a Service Evaluation report was prepared based on performance data provided by ATC and a report of the results of the on-board ride check conducted in April 2013 were also prepared. The Market Analysis report and Service Evaluation report were used in developing both short and long-term recommendations. Improving frequencies are the primary component of the recommendation plan. Phase 1 improvements would focus on improving frequencies on core routes, such as routes AT1, AT2, AT5 and AT8. Phase 2 improvements would allow for most of the other routes to achieve urban frequency levels. Other recommendations include the development of circulators in Old Town, Eisenhower East, and Van Dorn. The Commission members showed general support for the plan, including plans for a new cross-town route, and rebranding and realignment of Routes AT2 and AT5 to provide a circulator. The short and long-range plan recommendations will be presented to the DASH Board on April 3, 2014. A public hearing will be held by the DASH Board at its May 8, 2014 meeting as part of the overall Transit Development Plan. The Board will be asked to approve the COA as part of the Transit Development Plan.

7. Other Business

None.

There being no further business and no quorum, the meeting ended at 9:15