



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

March 5, 2014
7:00 p.m.
City Council Work Room

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Kerry Donley, Jerry King, Councilman Lovain, Nate Macek, Kevin Posey, Monica Starnes, and Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Carrie Beach - P&Z, Karen Callaham – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES,

Acting Chair, Commissioner Donley, called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. February, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Acting Chair Donley asked if there were any comments or edits regarding the February 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Macek asked that under Other Business in the minutes to change *the third Wednesday of each month will begin April 16 to the third Wednesday of each month will begin May 21*. Commissioner Wasowski made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Starnes seconded the motion. There being no objections, the motion to approve the minutes was voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Updates To Receive

The Commission received written staff updates on the Funding Update, NVTVA 70% Funds, Potomac Yard Metrorail Station and the Crystal City/Potomac Yard Route 1 Transitway. Commissioner Donley spoke about the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station being two years behind schedule. He indicated the CSX option as being folly as the moving of the CSX tracks will tremendously increase the price of the project. He also spoke of accelerating the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) document for release. He stated the City's expenses have exceeded revenues for the last 7 years. Selecting an option, approving and constructing the Metro station will enable the City to begin expanding the revenue base. T&ES staff Sandra Marks reported that the decision is not only up to the City to move quickly with the project. The project is a joint collaboration between Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), (FTA) and the National Park Service (NPS) who asked for the EIS as moving the

CSX tracks would directly impact the NPS wetlands. Commissioner King inquired about the existence of a financial limit with the CSX option. Sandra Marks stated there were other alternatives not chosen and majority of those were not financially or technically feasible. Therefore there is a financial cost estimate. Commissioner Starnes inquired if it was realistic to expect CSX to shut down their operations for the tracks to be moved. Commissioner Wasowski asked if the Route 1 Transitway was on schedule. Sandra Marks reported the Transitway is largely complete except for the ongoing installation of the stations. Afterwards, the marketing campaign, test runs, routing and timing and fare equipment installation will begin. The transitway is anticipated to begin operation in Summer 2014.

3. Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study

T&ES staff Steve Sindiong gave an overview and project schedule of the Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study which is expected to take six months to complete. The study came about as a result of the Waterfront Commission recommendation that a shared street design for the core of Union Street to be tied to a shared street design for the 100 block of King Street. This would allow pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles to share a common street space along Union Street between Cameron and Prince Streets, and in the unit and 100 blocks of King Street. In response to the recommendation, City staff have begun the Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study which will analyze impacts associated with shared street concepts. The study will consider such factors as parking, delivery vehicle access, pedestrian and bicycle access, emergency access, maintenance, traffic impacts, curb design and transition, traffic calming, and accommodation of special events. The study will identify traffic and circulation improvements, operational and maintenance needs, an implementation timetable and process, and budgetary requirements for the conversion with other projects in the vicinity. Staff have met with the Waterfront Commission and Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) for input. In addition, other civic engagement tools will be conducted over the next month including a walking audit and focus group meetings on March 10, 2014, and a public meeting on March 20, 2014. The Commission provided input that should be considered as the study moves forward, including the importance of getting the concept right, ensuring business support and accessibility, the potential to expand to the 200 block of King Street, and ensuring that parking options are visible.

4. Commission Updates

Commissioner Donley reported that the DASH Board will have a meeting on March 6, 2014 and he will report at the Commission's next meeting.

Councilman Lovain reported the Transportation Planning Board approved a Green Street policy mainly to encourage municipalities to pass their own policy. He also added he has been working with City staff for a City of Alexandria Green Street Policy.

Commissioner Starnes reported that the Environmental Policy Commission meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

5. Other Business

T&ES staff Sandra Marks welcomed the new commissioners, Jerry King and Nate Macek. Ms. Marks spoke briefly of the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Commissioner responsibilities on

the various Transportation Commission subcommittees. Ms. Marks also cited the need to elect a Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Starnes made a motion to nominate Nate Macek as Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner King voted on and unanimously approved. Commissioner Posey made a motion to nominate Commissioner King as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Donley, voted on and unanimously approved

Commissioner Donley discussed the vacant subcommittees that need to have representatives appointed. The Commission discussed the potential to designate citizens or former Commissioners to subcommittees given the number of subcommittees for various projects. Staff will look into this and the subcommittees will be appointed at future meetings.

There being no further business, Commissioner Posey made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner King, voted on and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.