

City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

June 3, 2009
7:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 1101

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mayor William D. Euille, Jayme Blakesley, Sean Kumar, Timothy Lovain, Jennifer Mitchell, Donna Fossum, Keith Frehofer, Kevin Posey, Larry Robinson

Staff Present: Rich Baier RCPA, Sandra Marks, T&ES, Jim Maslanka, T&ES, Yon Lambert, T&ES, Erica Bannerman, T&ES, Karl Moritz, P&Z Pat Mann, P&Z

1. **Minutes**

Chairman Kumar asked for edits or changes for the minutes of the May 6, 2009 meeting. There being none, Commissioner Blakesley made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Fossum second the motion. The May 6, 2009 minutes were approved 7-0.

2. **Update of the Federal Economic Stimulus Package**

Rich Baier presented an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allocations. Four City of Alexandria projects met the State's requirement of being shovel-ready; namely, Eisenhower Trail, Trolley Purchases, Dash Bus Purchases and King Street Metro Station Rebuild. The City withdrew the DASH project because new bus purchases would have required DASH to comply FTA guidelines that DASH's board had previously voted against. Also eliminated by the City from the package was the King Street Metro Rebuild which will be covered by CMAQ funds.

3. **Energy Conservation Strategy**

Erica Bannerman, of the Environmental Quality Division of T&ES, presented the City's Energy Efficient and Conservation Strategy (EECS). The EECS is part of the requests for funds under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. The City had partnered with Virginia Tech's Department of Urban Affairs and Planning to design and facilitate a new strategic planning process called Eco-City Alexandria. Also created was the Environmental Action Plan

(EAP) to guide the City toward sustainability. Over \$2.7 billion in formula grants are now available to states and local governments under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program which is for the first time being funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The City has 8 existing projects that are shovel-ready that will be submitted to the Department of Energy by the June 25, 2009 deadline.

4. Metro Feasibility Update

Sandra Marks and Commissioner Mitchell reported back from the Potomac Yard Metro Feasibility Work group. The group is continuing to review the station alternative locations. A number of station location options have been determined to be infeasible due to constraints including cost, property impacts and NPS restrictions. Also discussed was the cost versus value of a Potomac Yard Metro station and the amount of development that would be required to support the Metro. The models considered would generate sufficient tax revenues but initially there will be a large debt service that will have to be paid back in the early years of the project before it begins to generate revenues to cover it.

5. Commission Updates

BRAC-133 Advisory Group – Commissioner Blakesley presented a letter from the BRAC Advisory Group to City Council. The BRAC Group is concerned about current transportation and traffic issues that have changed since the project was approved in 2004 by City Council. The letter outlines three (3) points; strong support for direct access from I-395 to the Mark Center; request City to conduct a full analysis of the potential impact such direct access would cause in all affected areas in proximity to the Mark Center by October 2009; and places a freeze on implementation of road alterations approved in the 2004 SUP until the full analysis is completed. Commissioner Posey made a motion to send a formal letter to the BRAC Advisory group to convey the Transportation Commission's concerns. Commissioner Blakesley seconded the motion.

LRP/TIP Project Prioritization – Sandra Marks suggested deferring update on the LRP/TIP projects until the July meeting.

City's Annual Legislative Package - Chairman Kumar reported receiving the standard letter sent to City commissions regarding the City's annual legislative package. The letter requested commissions to submit legislative proposals associated with the mission of their commissions by September.

Chairman Kumar thanked Councilman Lovain for his service with the Transportation Commission and bid him farewell.

A motion to adjourn was made by the Chairman and Commissioner Fossum seconded the motion.