



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

July 9, 2009

7:30 p.m.

City Hall, Room 1101

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Jayme Blakesley, Mayor William D. Euille, Donna Fossum, Keith Freihofer, Jesse Jennings, Councilman Rob Krupicka, Sean Kumar, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey

Others Present: Rich Baier, T&ES, Karen Callaham, T&ES, Bob Garbacz, T&ES, Al Himes, DASH, Yon Lambert, T&ES, Pat Mann, P&Z, Sandra Marks, T&ES, Jim Maslanka, T&ES, Karl Moritz, P&Z, Morgan Routt, OMB

1. **Minutes**

Chairman Kumar asked for edits or changes for the minutes of the June 3, 2009 meeting. There being none, Commissioner Fossum made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Mitchell second the motion. The June 3, 2009 minutes were approved 8-0.

Chairman Kumar spoke on behalf of the Transportation Commission in conveying sincere condolences and deep sympathy regarding the death of Tom Culpepper, the Deputy Director of the City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. Tom was instrumental in creation of the Transportation Commission. A moment of silence was observed to acknowledge the passing of the wonderful person Tom was.

2. **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)/Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Grants**

Jim Maslanka informed the group that CMAQ/RSTP grants are two types of federal government grant programs in which monies are provided to states annually which are regionally distributed. For each grant program, the federal share of each grant is 80% and the state share is 20%. Typically, the City does not need to provide local funding to match these grants. The jurisdictions within the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (NVTA) allocate the funds among themselves. The CMAQ grants have to be used for projects that help air quality. RSTP grants are more

flexible and can be used for a wide array of multimodal or road projects. This is an annual process in which project recommendations are due to the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance by the end of September. Mr. Maslanka and Mr. Lambert informed the group which CMAQ/RSTP projects are being considered for the grants. The first round of potential submissions included DASH Bus Acquisition, Preliminary Engineering of Exclusive Transitway Improvements, Transportation Demand Management Advancement, and Bicycle Parking at Major Transit Stops, Bicycle Sharing Initiative, Holmes Run Pedestrian/Bicycle Tunnel Construction, Phase II, Eisenhower Platform Extension and Braddock Road Metro Pedestrian Connections.

Sandra Marks provided an overview about the draft LRP/TIP Project Prioritization criteria against the list of CMAQ/RSTP grant projects. There is an early September deadline in which the prioritized list of projects chosen by the Transportation Commission must go to City Council for consideration and be submitted to NVTAA by the end of September. Commission members were asked to review the list of projects using the prioritization criteria and report their opinion of the projects' priority to Ms. Marks by July 30th.

3. **Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)**

Transportation Improvement Projects being considered for City funding in FY 2011 were discussed. The Commission will begin prioritizing TIP projects for recommendation to the City Manager for consideration in the City's FY2011 budget. Ms. Marks, Mr. Lambert and Bob Garbacz facilitated the review of the prioritization matrix for the TIP projects. The projects are Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter, On-Street Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety, Neighborhood Safety Transportation Enhancement Program (iN-STEP), Traffic Control Facilities, Bridge Repairs, Street Reconstruction, Alley Rehabilitation Program, Edsall Road Reconstruction.

4. **Staff Updates**

Hot Lanes - Mr. Garbacz provided an update on the I-395 HOT lanes project and their potential impacts on Alexandria at Seminary Road and Shirlington Circle. The City is participating in the design phase for the HOT lanes at both Alexandria locations where access is proposed. Staff will continue to attend community and VDOT meetings relating to this issue and report back to the Commission.

BRAC-133 – Mr. Garbacz informed the Commissioners that City staff is working with a consultant to study previous traffic analyses of the Mark Center access with current development and parking plans; assess the need for adding additional left turn lanes at Seminary/Beauregard and Beauregard/Mark Center; evaluate if the lane turn lanes will be needed in addition to the potential addition of a direct ramp connection into Mark Center; review the advantages/disadvantages of the direct ramp connection, the proposed roadway lane, and the geometric features near the Mark Center. Staff will also identify an interim traffic solution for the area between the BRAC occupancy in 2011 and construction of the new ramp in 2013.

Commissioner Blakesley requested that pedestrian access and the transit center be included in the scope.

Federal Stimulus - Mr. Maslanka reported that the City will participate in a regional application for TIGER funding through the federal stimulus program for a regional BRT network. The two City projects proposed to be included are the Van Dorn/Beauregard corridor and the Route 1 transitway between Monroe Avenue and East Glebe Road.

5. Commission Updates

Potomac Yard - The planning process is continuing with the main focus currently on finalizing issues relating to the Metrorail Station Feasibility process. During the summer, staff will continue to review options and alternatives. There was a call for volunteers to participate in a summer subcommittee to work with staff. A subcommittee has been formed and will convene in the fall looking at framework streets and open space in Landbay L.

Waterfront Plan - There was a community meeting on June 27 outlining existing conditions, environmental constraints, historic resources, shoreline conditions, flooding issues, economics and demographics. The group broke into small groups and collaborated on developing a vision for the Waterfront by exploring the various themes identified. Parking is a key transportation issue in the Waterfront plan.

6. Other Business

City's Annual Legislative Package -Mr. Lambert reported that he met with the City's Legislative Director, Bernie Caton, to discuss the City's annual legislative package submission. Although the legislative package is not yet prepared, it will likely include a call for additional transportation funding and pedestrian safety legislation proposing that vehicles would stop at crosswalks instead of "yield" as is currently the law.

WMATA – Mayor Euille reported back from the July Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Board meeting regarding their discussions on WMATA's current funding needs. Metro requires public financial support to close the gap between passenger revenues and costs as it does not have a dedicated source of funding. The "Metro Matters" funding scheme, which includes funds from state and local governments, expires in FY 2010. Local governments have committed to matching federal funds for WMATA from their 2010 appropriations in October.

Chairman Kumar reminded the group the next meeting of the Transportation Commission will be Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 7:30 in City Hall Room 1101.

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