



The meeting will begin at 7:00PM. We will be conducting audio/video checks between 6:45 and 6:55PM.

Transportation Commission

December 15, 2021





Commission Members

- **Lawrence Chambers** – DASH
- **Oscar Gonzalez** – Citizen East, High School Project
- **Casey Kane** – Traffic and Parking Board, Eisenhower West/
Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group
- **Bruce Marsh** – Citizen East, Potomac Yard Metro Implementation
Working Group
- **Jim Maslanka** – Citizen West
- **Melissa McMahon** – Planning Commission
- **Bill Pugh** – Environmental Policy Commission, AMP Chair,
Eisenhower West/ Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group
- **Canek Aguirre** – Council (non-voting)
- **Charles Sumpter** on behalf of **John Chapman** – Council (non-
voting)
- **VACANT** – Citizen West
- **VACANT** – Planning Commission



Meeting Notice

Agenda Item #1



Electronic Meeting Notice

- Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the December 15, 2021 meeting of the Transportation Commission is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) and the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 to undertake essential business. All of the members of the public body and staff are participating from remote locations through a Zoom Webinar.



Public Comment Period

Agenda Item #2



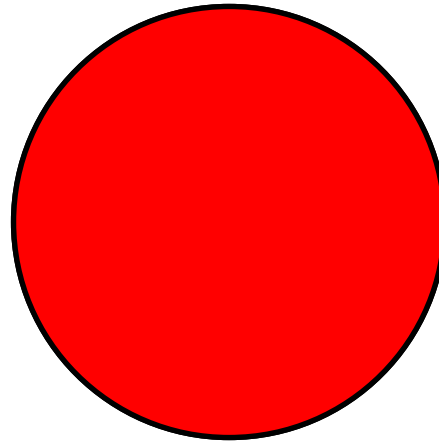
Public Comment

- For speakers not discussing items related to the public hearings.
- Raise hand or press *9
- Mute or unmute press *6
- 3 minutes per speaker



3 Minute Timer

Announcement will sound automatically when time is up





TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MINUTES: NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Agenda Item #3



Consideration of Endorsement of FY23 DPRT State Aid and Commuter Assistance Program Grants

Agenda Item #4



FY2023 DRPT State Aid Request

DRPT State Aid Grants support DASH operating and capital expenses as well as transportation demand management (TDM) efforts.

Operating

- Total eligible expenses - \$28,500,000
- State awards a portion for general operating expenses
- FY 2022 award - \$4.804 million (17.9%)

Capital

- \$4,800,000 for eight clean diesel buses

CAP (TDM) Operating Expenses

- \$331,300 for staffing and programming
- 20% local match required



FY21 Program Highlights - GO Alex

- 338 new employers added to GO Alex's services
- Pandemic related response, including trip planning and information sharing from first responders
- Coordination of 100+ Transportation Management Plans (TMPs)
- Maintained CaBi memberships with only some decline (18 percent), with memberships already recovering

FY23 Plans

DASH

- Implement more of the Alexandria Transit Vision, including
 - Additional service improvements during off-peak periods
 - Better connectivity between West Alexandria and Old Town.

GO Alex

- New TMP Reform, ordinance for Council this spring
- Expand outreach for new City infrastructure in Potomac Yard, pilot Mobility Hub ideas
- Continue to promote Capital Bikeshare, employer outreach incentives



Recommendation

That the Transportation Commission provide an endorsement to City Council for the approval of DRPT FY 2023 State Aid Grant and CAP Operating Assistance Grant applications.



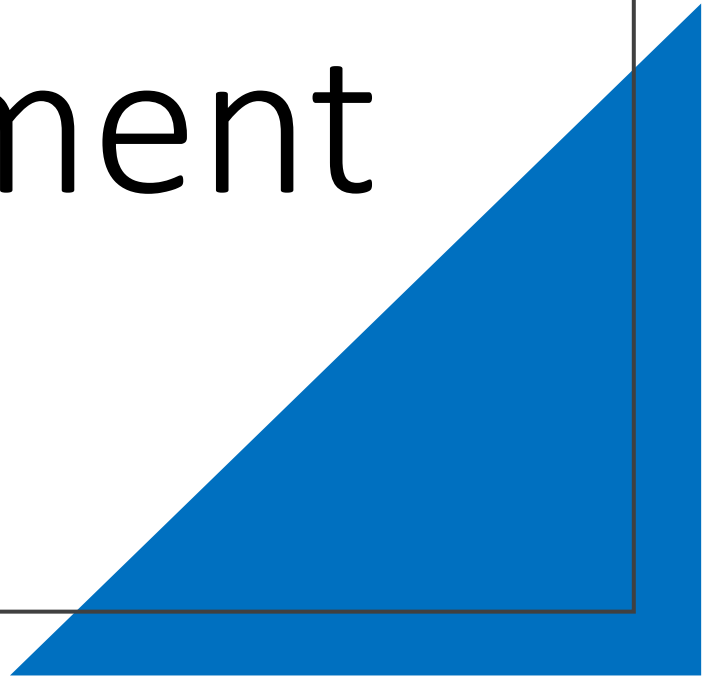
Grant Process Update

Agenda Item #5

Transportation Grants Process Improvement

Draft Presentation to TC and Council

Fall 2021



Purpose

- To share proposed changes to the transportation grants application process for discussion in advance of Council consideration.

Agenda

Background

Need

Proposal

Discussion

Goals for Process Improvement

1

Increase
transparency

2

Make it easier for
the public to provide
input

3

Foster more strategic
planning



Background

Planning Documents

Funding Sources

Existing Process

Current Grant Process



Guiding Planning Documents

Alexandria Mobility Plan

Transportation Master Plan that articulates a vision, guiding principles, policies, and high-level strategies. It identifies a network for high-capacity transit corridors, sidewalks, and bike facilities.

Long Range Plan

Biennial compilation and prioritization of all major unfunded projects, approved by the Transportation Commission

Small Area Plans

Planning documents that address future needs and projects

Modal/Topical Plans

Planning documents that articulate more granular transportation needs (Vision Zero Action Plan, Alexandria Transit Vision, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Charging Readiness Strategy, Smart Mobility Framework).

10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Partially or fully funded projects identified through other planning efforts and approved annually by City Council



Need

Funding Cycles

Process Challenges

What We've Heard

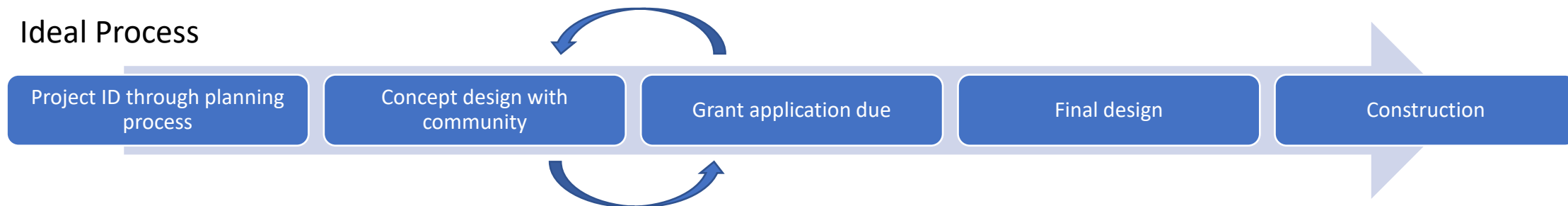
Grants Process Challenges

- Grants are often for funding five-six years in the future
- Grant applications require a lot of detail, often before funding is available for a project-specific community process

Current Process



Ideal Process



What We've Heard



Community not aware of opportunities to provide input on projects



Too many applications to track throughout the year



City is not transparent about the process



Not enough early engagement and identification of projects impacts



Proposal

Proposed Response

Categorization

Typical Grant Opportunities

Proposed Process

Proposed Response



Community not aware of opportunities to provide input on projects

Action: Annual engagement push for all major capital projects at one time.*



Too many applications to track throughout the year

Action: New grants information clearinghouse website and more consistent social media and eNews pushes



City is not transparent about the process

Action: Staff will group projects to focus attention on high-interest projects and consolidate opportunities for engagement



Not enough early engagement and identification of project impacts

Action: Introducing a new FY23 CIP project for planning and feasibility studies

*Changing circumstances and priorities and new grant opportunities might require additional endorsements and public hearings

Proposed Grant Categorization

Group 1: One-Time capital project funding

- Typically fund the design, outreach, environmental, and construction for larger capital projects
- Funds are often not received for 5-6 years in the future
- **Examples:** NVTVA 70% funds large capacity projects with regional significance, CMAQ/RSTP funds studies and multimodal projects, etc.

Group 2: Ongoing program/project/ maintenance funding

- Reduce City general fund dollars by paying for work the City has already planned or committed to do
- Typically annual grants that fund near term work
- **Examples:** Primary extension offsets street resurfacing costs, DRPT operating funding pays for staff time, DRPT capital funding reimburses the City for bus purchases, TLC grants fund studies that help inform future policies or projects, Commuter Choice offsets DASH operating cost on certain routes, etc.

Typical Grant Opportunities

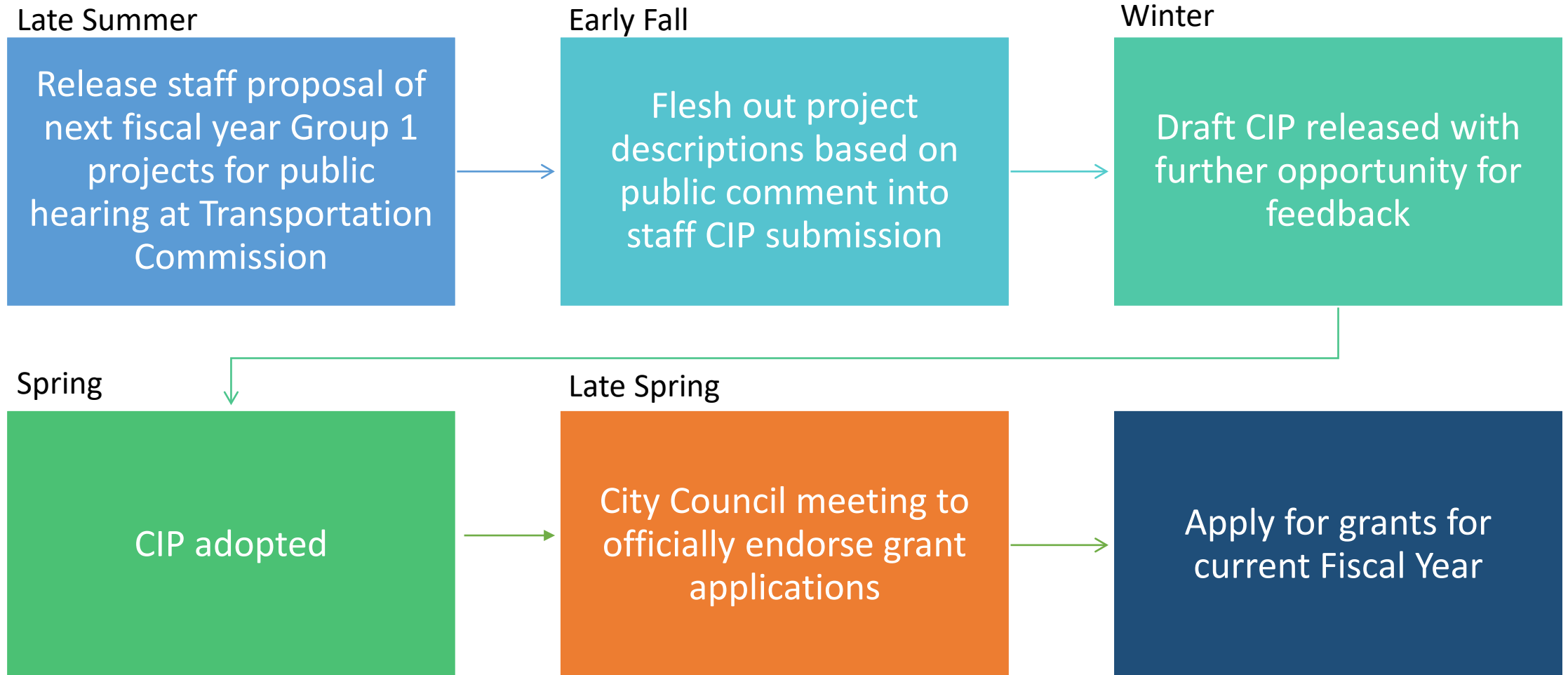
Even Years	Odd Years
SmartScale	Revenue Sharing
Primary Extension (Paving)	Primary Extension (Paving)
Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) & Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)	Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) & Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)
Transit Assistance	Transit Assistance
Transportation Land Use Connections (TLC)	Transportation Land Use Connections (TLC)
	Transportation Alternatives Program (TA Set-Aside)
	Commuter Choice (I-395 & I-66)
	NVTA 70% Funds
	Enhanced Mobility

Key:

Group 1

Group 2

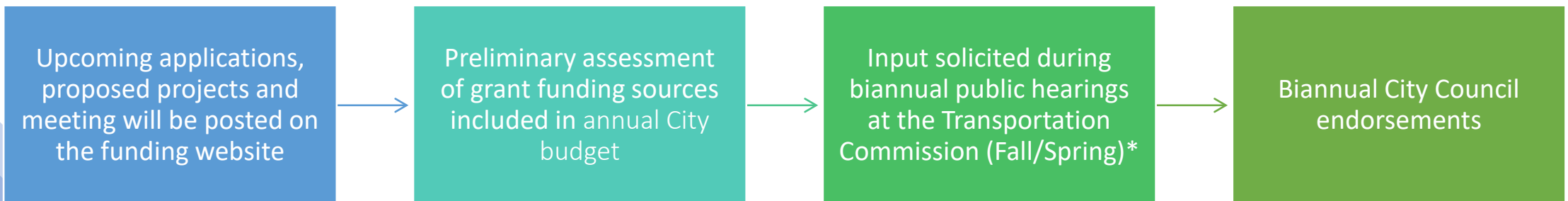
Proposed Process: Group 1 Projects Annual Cycle



Proposed Process: Group 2 Projects Bi-Annual Cycle

General Characteristics:

- Have faster turn around time and information needed is not always readily available far in advance
- Do not garner a lot of community interest as they essentially provide funds for existing and ongoing services



*Additional meetings may be required pending specific grant circumstances

Opportunities to Better Incorporate LRP into Grant Process

- Make sure it is truly a comprehensive list of potential grant funded projects
 - Include smaller projects or programs
 - Include projects only partially funded in CIP and still need funds to complete project
 - Include smaller scale projects that may not be explicit in formal planning documents, but are consistent with the principles and policies of the Alexandria Mobility Plan
- Note potential funding sources for each project
- Simplify scoring process to tier instead of rank projects, while considering appropriate time horizons
- Share as a reference document during public process for grant applications



Discussion

Feedback on proposed process improvements

Additional proposals to better align LRP process with updated grants process



Conflicts of Interest

Agenda Item #6

Conflicts of Interest Laws

- Conflict of interest (COI) laws applicable to board/commission members:
 - State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (Act)
 - Certain provisions of the City's Code of Ordinances
- Code of Virginia § 2.2-3100 through 2.2-3131
- City Ordinances - § 3-3-121 through 3-3-133

Conflicts of Interest - Obligations

- Minimum standards of conduct with respect to the interests of board/commission members.
- Do not protect against **all** appearances of improper influence.
- Burden on the individual board or commission member
 - Do the facts presented create an appearance of impropriety that is
 - Unacceptable
 - Could affect the confidence of the public in the ability of the board member to be impartial



State COI Act – What is Prohibited?

- No board/commission member may accept money or any other thing of value or take other advantages based upon position as a member of the board
- Members cannot have a “personal interest” in a “contract” or “transaction”
 - A “personal interest” is a financial benefit or liability accruing to a board member or to a member of their immediate family.
 - A “contract” is any agreement to which the City is a party or any agreement on behalf of a City that involves the payment of money appropriated by the City
 - A “transaction” is any matter considered by the board on which official action is taken or contemplated.

City Code COI - What is Prohibited?

- Participation in procurement transactions is proscribed under a variety of circumstances
 - If they or an immediate family member are employed by a bidder in the transaction
 - If they or an immediate family member will directly or indirectly profit from the transaction
 - If they, a partner, or immediate family member are involved in the negotiating with a bidder, offeror, or contractor.
 - Cannot accept or solicit gifts
- Question of whether a COI exists is fact specific
 - Contact the City Attorney's Office



2022 Draft Work Plan

Agenda Item #7



2022 DRAFT Transportation Commission Work Plan

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
City Planning Studies												
Duke Street Traffic Mitigation Pilot	▲	▲			▲							
Bus Stop Inventory						▲						
Interdepartmental Long Range Work Plan		▲										
Paratranist Program Update	▲											
Seminary Road Data						▲						
Repaving Update		▲										
AlexMoves Survey		▲										
Safe Routes to School						▲						
West End Transitway	▲										▲	
Duke Street In Motion	▲				▲						▲	
Transportation Funding												
FY2022-2031 City Budget		▲	▲						▲	▲		
Group 1 (Major Capital Projects) Grants					▲	▲						
Group 2 (Programmatic) Grants					▲	▲					▲	▲
Transportation-Land Use Connections Grant (TLC)		▲										
Low or No Emissions Vehicle Program			▲	▲								
Transportation Programs												
Vision Zero Action Plan Implementation	▲					▲						
Alexandria Mobility Plan Implementation				▲								
Capital Bikeshare Expansion					▲	▲					▲	
Long Range Plan					▲	▲	▲					
TMP Update			▲									
Smart Mobility / Parking Technologies					▲							
Regional Projects / Plans												
Legislative Process				▲					▲	▲		
DC to Richmond High Speed Rail			▲									
Blue Orange Silver Line Study (WMATA)				▲								
Bus Transformation Project (WMATA)											▲	
WMATA Budget	▲			▲								▲
NVTA TransAction	▲					▲			▲			

Discussion Item ▲
 Action Item ▲
 Consent Item ▲



Discussion

- Feedback on draft work plan to incorporate before bringing final work plan in January 2022



Commissioner Updates

Agenda Item #8



Items for Consent

Agenda Item #9



Other Business

Agenda Item #10



Other Business

- Elections - January
- Roster Update
- WMATA Budget - January



Adjourn Transportation Commission Meeting

Next meeting: January 19, 2022