



Transportation Commission

January 25, 2021

**5:30 PM
Virtual Meeting**

AGENDA

1. Electronic Meeting Notice (see next page)
2. Public Comment (Not to exceed 10 min)
3. Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Meeting
4. **Action Item: Elections**

In the interest of time, the following written updates may be taken off consent and raised for discussion at the February meeting.

- A. Transportation Commission 2021 Work Plan
- B. WMATA Budget
- C. Visualize 2045
- D. Interdepartmental Long Range Planning Work Program

***Public hearing items are so noted on the agenda.** The Commission may receive public comments on other agenda items at its discretion. When there is no public hearing, the Commission encourages written comments on agenda items be sent to transportationcommission@alexandriava.gov in advance of or after the meeting.*

Next Meeting: February 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM

The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of ADA. An individual with a disability who wishes to request an accommodation may contact the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4086 or TTY/TTD 703-838-5056.



Electronic Meeting Notice

1. Electronic Meeting Notice

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the 1/25/2021 meeting of the Transportation Commission is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2- 3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Section 4-0.01(g) in HB29 and HB30, enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly (Virginia Acts of Assembly Ch. 1283 and 1289), to undertake essential business. All of the members of the Board and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person in the City Council Chamber at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event.

Members of the public can join through the following link:

<https://zoom.us/s/93916882867>

Passcode: 986482

Or by phone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 939 1688 2867

Passcode: 986482

Public comment will be received at the meeting. There will be a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting and written testimony can be provided until 3PM on 1/25/21 to Jennifer.Slesinger@alexandriava.gov.

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City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

December 16, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Councilman Canek Aguirre, Council John Chapman, Chair Melissa McMahon, Vice-Chair Oscar Gonzalez, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner John Goebel, Commissioner Bill Pugh, Commissioner Jeff Bennett, Commissioner Larry Chambers, Commissioner Alyia Gaskins.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann – Transportation Planning Division Chief, Jennifer Slesinger - Transportation Planning Division, Sharese Thomas – Transportation Planning Division, Jose Ayala – Department of Planning & Zoning.

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/TransportationCommission>

Chair McMahon called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

1. Electronic Meeting Notice

2. Public Comment Period

Joseph Sestak expressed concerns about the Commuter Choice Grant Program with the focus on the City Manager's guidance for budget to be viewed through a race and social equity lens. He raised equity concerns tied to the crash statistics on the western end of Seminary Road around I-395 and requested that the Commuter Choice Grant be used for this section of roadway. He said that City's plans do not include this section of roadway and that there are other areas around the City with high crash numbers that impact vulnerable populations that should be addressed.

Jeremy Grandstaff urged the Transportation Commission to help the City to continue to adopt and move forward with Vision Zero while looking at all modes of transportation when designing new transportation projects and new construction with a focus on equity. He expressed significant concern about the intersection of Duke Street and South Pickett.

3. November Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes as presented: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Bennett
Motion carries unanimously.

4. ACTION ITEM: Transportation Long Range Plan – Public Hearing

ISSUE: The 2020 update to the Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission hold a public hearing and approve the 2020 LRP update.

DISCUSSION: Jennifer Slesinger, Principal Planner, presented the update of the 2020 Transportation Long Range Plan and noted that the full list of prioritized projects, developer projects, and studies is available on the Transportation Commission website. The meeting was opened for public feedback regarding the Transportation Long Range Plan.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Zachary Desjardins spoke in support of Interim Bicycle Facilities on Eisenhower. He mentioned that the proposed bicycle facility on Eisenhower Avenue does not meet the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines on right turns with bike lanes. He does not believe that a bicycle facility will impact travel speeds on Eisenhower. Due to the current repaving schedule, Mr. Desjardins is requesting that a painted buffer be installed immediately.

Rebecca Tiffany also requested a painted buffer be installed to indicate bikes are on Eisenhower Avenue during rush hour, to protect bicyclists.

Motion to approve the 2020 long-range plan update: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Pugh
Motion carries unanimously.

5. ACTION ITEM: Commuter Choice Grant

ISSUE: Consideration of the recommended DASH/City of Alexandria projects for the FY 2022 – FY 2023 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide an endorsement to City Council for approval of the two proposed I-395/95 Commuter Choice projects at their January 12, 2020 legislative session. The “DASH West End-Pentagon Bus Service Enhancements (Line 35)” at a two-year cost of up to \$6,810,000, and the “DASH West End-Potomac Yard” Bus Service Enhancements (Line 36)” with a two-year cost of up to \$4,180,000.

DISCUSSION: Martin Barna, DASH representative presented background information on the grant and the City’s proposals. Commissioner Pugh asked whether Mr. Sestak’s proposal during the public comment would be eligible for this grant. While the project may be eligible, it would likely not score well due to the criteria prioritizing increased throughput on the corridor. Chair McMahon expressed interest in seeing the full list of projects under consideration for I-395 Commuter Choice in the future.

Motion to endorse a letter of support for the Commuter Choice Grant applications for City

Council approval: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Bennett
Motion carries unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEM: FY2022 Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) State Aid Grant and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance Grant

ISSUE: Consideration of grant applications to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for the FY 2022 State Aid Grant Programs; and consideration of FY 2022 Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) Operating Assistance Grant (formerly known as the Transportation Demand Management Operating Assistance Grant) and required local matching funds

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide an endorsement to City Council for the approval of DRPT FY 2022 State Aid Grant and CAP Operating Assistance Grant applications.

DISCUSSION: Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, presented the City's request for DRPT grants for DASH Operating Assistance, DASH Bus Expansion, and the City's GO Alex program. Commissioners asked clarifying questions and expressed support for the City's Go Alex program.

Motion to endorse a letter of support for the approval of DRPT FY 2022 State Aid Grant and CAP Operating Assistance Grant applications to City Council for approval: Commissioner Pugh

Second: Vice-Chair Gonzalez

Motion carries unanimously.

7. ACTION ITEM: City FY22 Budget Letter to City Manager

ISSUE: Consideration of submission of a letter to the City Manager pertaining to the Commission's budget priorities for FY 2022.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission endorse the draft letter to the City Manager.

DISCUSSION: Jennifer Slesinger, Principal Planner, presented the email feedback received after the November 18, 2020 Transportation Commission meeting regarding Commissioner priorities for the next budget cycle. Commissioners expressed support for Vision Zero, Complete Streets, Alexandria Vision Transit Plan implementation, and trails. The highest priorities based on feedback were Vision Zero implementation with a focus on complete streets projects and implementation of the Alexandria Transit Vision plan.

Motion to endorse a draft letter of support to City Manager as amended: Vice-Chair Gonzalez

Second: Commissioner Kane

Motion carries unanimously.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: 2021 Draft Work Plan

ISSUE: Presentation of the draft 2021 Transportation Commission Work Plan, a roadmap and tentative schedule of major Transportation Commission activities for the coming year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission review and provide feedback on the 2021 Draft Work Plan.

DISCUSSION: Jennifer Slesinger, Principal Planner, discussed the Transportation Commissioners priority items for the 2021 Draft Work Plan. Commissioner Kane discussed the importance of trails and wants to ensure that a status update is included in the work plan. Commissioners discussed the relationship between the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) and the Transportation Commission and expressed interest in having BPAC present updates to the Commission.

9. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received the following items for consent.

- A. King/Callahan/Russell Complete Streets Project**
- B. WMATA FY22 Budget Outlook**
- C. Low Income Fare Study**

10. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Gaskins: The Alexandria Mobility Plan Advisory Committee will be on January 25th at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Bennett: During the December DASH meeting it was discussed when DASH would resume charging fares again. Once buses are outfitted for protective barriers for drivers and riders, which is expected in the early Spring, the board will decide whether to charge fares.

Vice-Chair Gonzalez: At the Alexandria Families for Safe Streets meeting the Police Department discussed the pedestrian fatalities that have occurred at the intersection of South Washington and Wilkes Streets. Vice-Chair Gonzalez would like to see the Police Department work with Vision Zero program to develop a plan regarding the fatalities.

Commissioner Kane: The Traffic and Parking Board will meet on Monday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Chair McMahon: The Potomac Yard Park project that is part of the North Potomac Yard Development was on the December Planning Commission docket. Chair McMahon noted the lack of connection between the Alexandria and Arlington portions of trail.

Commissioner Pugh: Jeff Duvall discussed with the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) on Monday revisions to the Alternative Fleet Policy that will reduce fleet emissions by 25% over ten years. The recommendation for City Council approval will be held in January or February.

Council Chapman: On December 8, 2020, Council received an update on upcoming capital improvement projects, including King Street Station improvements.

Adjournment

At 8:47 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 25, 2021

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: WRITTEN UPDATE

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent. If there are any questions or comments on these items, Commissioners may raise them at the February meeting or email staff due to time constraints at the January meeting.

A. 2021 Transportation Commission Work Plan

See Attachment 1 for the revised 2021 Work Plan, which has been updated since the December meeting to add a trails update, the City's Climate and Energy Action Plan, the City's Long Range Work Program, Landmark Mall development as well as Visualize 2045, the Transportation Planning Board's federally required fiscally constrained long range transportation plan. In addition, staff have added consent items prior to requests for endorsements as discussed.

B. WMATA FY22 Budget Outlook

In the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, signed into law in early January, the region received \$830 million for transit funding. The funding includes apportionment to WMATA, the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission, and VRE. Of that amount, \$610 million is designated for WMATA after WMATA allocates a portion to local transit providers.

On January 14, the WMATA General Manager presented to the WMATA [Board](#) an FY21 budget amendment to allocate \$95 million of that funding to prevent layoffs and reductions in service, as well as an FY22 revised budget for public hearing, which allocates the remaining \$515 million. The FY21 budget amendment will add additional bus service to the region, and Alexandria specifically, instead of severely cutting service as initially planned. Region-wide, bus service will increase from about 75% of pre-pandemic levels to over 80% of pre-pandemic levels. While almost all routes in Alexandria will be running, many will have reduced service

levels, and some will have modified routes. Under the FY22 budget proposal, the increased service will continue through December 2021.

Unless additional revenue is identified, WMATA will have a \$119 million budget deficit for the second half of FY22. The current proposal will require, starting in January 2022, closure of 22 stations including Eisenhower and Van Dorn, reduced rail service, as well as eliminating most bus service in Alexandria, except for modified service on 7A/F, 10B, 28A, and 29K/N. Limited weekend rail service will still be available. These cuts would result in over 2,561 layoffs.

The Transportation Commission can endorse a letter to WMATA at the February meeting. The budget is anticipated to be adopted in April.

C. Visualize 2045

At its December meeting, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which receives federal funding for the region, officially kicked off the development of the region's long-range transportation plan, [Visualize 2045](#).

In 2018, the TPB adopted seven transportation initiatives. The TPB noted that these ideas, if funded and enacted, would have the potential to significantly improve the region's transportation system performance compared to current plans and programs. If the region can make these ideas a reality, they can be part of a comprehensive strategy to meet climate resiliency goals.

The seven Aspirational Initiatives are:

- Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together
- Expand Bus Rapid Transit and Transitways
- Move More People on Metrorail
- Provide More Telecommuting and Other Options for Commuting
- Expand Express Highway Network
- Improve Walk and Bike Access to Transit
- Complete the National Capital Trail Network

Alexandria staff are currently working to respond to the request for technical information for this effort. The deadline for agencies to submit their inputs is February 12, 2021. After that, staff will review the information provided and prepare it to be shared with the public. A 30-day public comment period will take place from April 2, 2021 to May 3, 2021. During this time, TPB members, stakeholders, and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the inputs, including whether and how they support shared regional goals and priorities. At its June meeting, the TPB will be asked to approve the inputs for use in the air quality and other analyses.

D. Interdepartmental Long Range Work Program

Each year, the City departments involved in long range planning collaborate on development of a planning work program for the upcoming fiscal year. For reference, you can view last year's (and previous years') approved work program [on the City's website](#).

Staff presented an initial draft for discussion at Planning Commission on January 5 and City Council on January 12. Materials are posted to the [Planning Commission docket](#). Feedback is welcome through May 2021, when City Council will vote to approve a long-range planning work program for FY 2022.

2021 DRAFT Transportation Commission Work Plan

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
City Planning Initiatives												
King Street Place				▲								
Alexandria Mobility Plan			▲									
Mt Vernon/Arlandria Initiatives					▲				▲			
West End Transitway		▲								▲		
Climate Energy and Action Plan		▲				▲					▲	
Landmark Mall			▲									
Duke Street Visioning		▲			▲							▲
Long Range Work Program	▲		▲								▲	
Transportation Funding												
DRPT TRIP Program					▲							
FY2021-2030 City Budget			▲	▲							▲	
6 Year Plan / RSTP / CMAQ Funding Request						▲						
NVTA 70% Funding							▲		▲			
FY2026-27 Smart Scale Grants					▲				▲			
DRPT/CAP Grants											▲	▲
HSIP/Revenue Sharing/TA					▲	▲						
Transportation Programs												
Trails			▲									
Vision Zero Action Plan Implementation		▲			▲							
Smart Mobility / Parking Technologies		▲										
Repaving Updates/Complete Streets		▲										
Safe Routes to School		▲										
Regional Projects / Plans												
DC to Richmond High Speed Rail			▲									
Blue Orange Silver Line Study (WMATA)			▲									
Bus Transformation Project (WMATA)												
WMATA Budget	▲	▲		▲								▲
NVTA TransAction			▲			▲						▲
TPB Visualize 2045	▲			▲								

Discussion Item ▲
 Action Item ▲
 Consent Item ▲