



**City of Alexandria**  
Transportation Commission

**Regular Meeting**

May 16, 2018  
7:00 p.m.  
Council Workroom

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Stephen Klejst, Commissioner Bruce Marsh, Commissioner Carolyn Schroder, Commissioner David Brown, Commissioner Alyia Gaskins, Commissioner Oscar Gonzalez, Commissioner Jake Jakubek, Commissioner Casey Kane.

**Staff Present:** Hillary Orr - T&ES, Allan Fye - Transit Services, Steve Sindiong - Transit Services, Tarrence Moorer - Transit Services, Christopher Ziemann - Transportation Planning, Ramiro Alberto Rios - Transportation Planning, Quanice Lawson - Transportation Planning, Richard Lawrence - Planning and Zoning.

Chairman Stephen Klejst called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:06 pm and introduced new Commissioner Casey Kane, who is replacing James Lewis as the Traffic and Parking Board member.

**1. Public Comment Period**

No Comments

**2. April Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve: Commissioner Marsh

Second: Commissioner Gonzalez

Approved: Unanimous

Abstention: Commissioner Kane.

**3. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)**

Allan Fye, Transit Services Division Chief, provided a verbal summary of WMATA Funding Legislation and the FY2019 City Budget Highlights as described in the docket.

**4. Commission Updates**

Commissioner Casey Kane: The Traffic and Parking Board (TP&B) is in the process of updating the City Code chapter on its Charters to add safety components and other elements.

Commissioner Jakubek: the Eisenhower West-Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group will meet on May 24, 2018 and will provide more details as they become available.

Chairman Stephen Klejst: the Potomac Yard Implementation Work Group met on Wednesday May 9, 2018 with strong representation from the Potomac Yard community as well as Mayor Silberberg and Manager Mark Jinks who were in attendance. The Work Group will consider requesting a provision to reinstate the south entrance and make the north entrance available for commercial development.

Chairman Stephen Klejst: Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) conducted 100% electric bus ride demonstrations, and the feedback so far has been positive.

##### **5. NVTA FY 2018 -2023 Six Year Program**

Steve Sindiong, Transit Services Capital Programs Manager, provided an update on the NVTA FY 2018-2023 Six Year Program.

- The FY 2018-FY 2023 Regional Revenue Fund Program (as part of the Six Year Program) contains regional projects that are funded by the NVTA's 70% regional funds.
- On October 12, 2017, the NVTA formally requested applications seeking 70% regional transportation funding for its first six-year program, FY 2018 - FY 2023. It is anticipated that approximately \$1.25 billion.
- On November 15, 2017, staff provided an overview to the Transportation Commission of its proposed projects for application to the NVTA, and the Commission recommended that staff proceed with the applications for six regional projects:
  - o West End Transitway (Northern Segment),
  - o ITS Project,
  - o Bus Network ITS,
  - o DASH Transit Service Enhancements and Expansion,
  - o Bike and Pedestrian Trails and Reconstruction,
  - o Duke Street Transitway
- On April 12, 2018 the NVTA approved the release of its candidate projects for the FY 2018-FY 2023 Six Year Program for public comment.
- On May 10, 2018, an open house and public hearing was held. The NVTA is accepting comments online via a public comment period which runs through May 20, 2018.
- The NVTA is expected to vote on the approval of the FY 2018 – FY 2023 program on June 14, 2018.
- Commissioner Gaskins made a motion to provide additional language to the endorsement letter regarding the West End Transitway project. Commissioner Marsh seconded, the Commission unanimously approved.

##### **6. USDOT Grant Funding: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)**

Tarrence Moorer, Transit Services Principal Planner, provided background and overview of the BUILD Program and requested endorsement of the proposed application.

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 appropriated \$1.5 billion to be awarded by the Department of Transportation (DOT) for National Infrastructure Investments. This appropriation stems from the American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and was previously known as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER Discretionary Grants) program.
- Funds for the FY 2018 BUILD Transportation program will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact.
- For this round of BUILD, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$150 million can be awarded to a single State. This allows up to \$15 million for the planning, preparation or design of projects eligible for BUILD transportation funds. City Staff has

developed a list of projects based on the guidelines and criteria outlined in the BUILD funding announcement to include the West End Transitway and the Duke Street Transitway.

- The funding provided through BUILD requires a 20 percent local match and may be used for up to 80 percent of a project in an urban area. To meet the match requirements, the Projects proposed for submission will require \$6 million for the West End Transitway and \$500,000 for the Duke Street Transitway respectively. It is anticipated that the local match for the West End Transitway will be NVTA 70% funds.
- After applications are submitted on July 19, 2018, staff from DOT will screen candidate projects to determine if they qualify to be scored. Selected projects will be scored in Fall 2018. The FY 2018 Appropriations Act mandates that BUILD grants be awarded by December 18, 2018.

Commissioner Jakubek made a motion to endorse the letter as presented, Commissioner Kane seconded, and commission unanimously approved.

#### **7. FY24-25 SMART SCALE Grants**

Tarrence Moorer, provided a brief background and proposed endorsement letter of the SMART SCALE Grant Application. The third round of SMART SCALE will be for projects seeking funding for FY24-25.

- Preapplications are due by June 1, 2018, and final applications for eligible projects will be due August 1, 2018. In January 2019, a list of all submitted projects and their scores will be submitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and posted on-line.
- In April or May 2019, the draft Six Year Plan, including SMART SCALE projects, will be released by the CTB, followed by public hearings and a public comment period to gather input. The CTB is expected to make its final decision on which projects to fund through SMART SCALE in June 2019.
- Several factors will be used to score submitted projects. Within Northern Virginia, projects are scored as follows:
  - o Congestion mitigation - 45%;
  - o Land use - 20%;
  - o Accessibility -15%;
  - o Environmental quality - 10%;
  - o Economic development - 5%;
  - o Safety - 5%.
- Proposed projects include
  - o West End Transitway Phase II (Southern Segment),
  - o Access Improvements to the Landmark Transit Hub,
  - o Safety & Capacity Enhancements at Duke/Taylor Run/ Telegraph,
  - o Eisenhower Avenue Metro Station North Entrance,
  - o DASH Zero Emission Fleet Program,
  - o Citywide TSP on Major Corridors.

Commissioner Marsh made a motion to endorse the letter as written, Commissioner Gaskins seconded, and commission unanimously approved.

#### **8. Commonwealth Transportation Board Six Year Plan**

Allan Fye provided a brief update on The Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) Six-Year (SYIP) Improvement Program and requested feedback on the draft letter from City Mayor

Silberberg to the CTB.

- The CTB SYIP outlines planned funding for the study, development, and construction of transportation projects across the Commonwealth, and updates the SYIP each year.
- The SYIP includes a variety of funding sources including:
  - o SMART SCALE,
  - o CMAQ/RSTP,
  - o Transit Capital Assistance,
  - o Transit Operating Assistance,
  - o VDOT Employer Outreach,
  - o TDM Operations,
  - o Revenue Sharing,
  - o Primary Extension Funding,
  - o Transportation Alternatives projects,
  - o Highway Safety projects.

The public comment period for the FY19-24 SYP closes on May 30, 2018. All commissioner comments should be submitted to Ramiro Rios by May 18, 2018.

#### **9. Route 1 South Affordable Housing Project**

Richard Lawrence, Planning and Zoning Urban Planner, provided an update on the proposed recommendations regarding mobility, safety, and neighborhood connectivity for the Route 1 South Housing Affordability Strategy.

- The study area focuses on a portion of the Southwest Quadrant area around Route 1, south of Duke Street.
- The timing of this effort is tied to the expiration of affordable housing contracts on two large rental properties in the Old Town and Old Towne West areas. This initiative is exploring opportunities to maintain housing affordability in the area through future preservation, renovation, and redevelopment of these properties.
- The project is also exploring strategies to strengthen the character of the neighborhood by prioritizing safety and accessibility along Route 1 and neighborhood streets, creating a more welcoming gateway to the city, and improving the quality of the public realm. Community engagement for this process has included pop-up events, a walking tour, multiple community meetings and a week-long charrette.
- During the charrette week, the community and staff drafted guiding principles and strategies to create a roadmap for the focus area and Southwest Quadrant neighborhood. Of interest to the Transportation Commission is the Draft Guiding Principle related to mobility, safety, and neighborhood connectivity that states safe streets for all, prioritizing people walking and biking, consistent with the City's Complete Streets Design Guidelines and Vision Zero Action Plan.
- The long-term vision for Route 1 is for the street to be transformed from car-centric to a human-centric street. This includes reducing lane width, adding a landscaped median, and more permanent improvements. New development will be expected to construct improvements adjacent to their sites that improve the quality of the public realm, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and connectivity. Major roadway improvements will compete for grant and/or City Capital Improvement program (CIP) funding.
- The next community meetings will be held on May 30, 2018 at the Lee Center and will include the release of the Draft Plan. Community Meeting number 8 is scheduled for June 28, 2018 at the Lee Center and will include draft plan community comments.

**10. Transportation Long Range Plan**

On the April 18, 2018, staff provided an overview of the draft 2018 LRP project list, developer contingent list, and studies list. Commissioners individually reviewed the draft 2018 LRP, and prioritized projects using the prioritization criteria discussed during the April 18, 2018 meeting. City staff will hold a public hearing in June 2018 to adopt the LRP by Transportation Commission.

With no motions to modify further, Commissioner Jakubek made a motion to accept as modified, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins and unanimously approved.

At 9:36 pm, Commissioners made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

DRAFT