

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2010

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: T&ES STAFF

SUBJECT: STAFF UPDATES

A. OCTOBER 6, 2010 MEETING – PARKING UPDATE

Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group concluded their work sessions at their sixth and final meeting on August 31. At this meeting, the group discussed the specified comprehensive parking management strategies and developed the final recommendations for implementation. Final recommendations can be found on the attached chart.

A final report on the Old Town Parking Study Work Group's effort has been completed and was submitted to City Council at the end of September. A Council worksession on the group's recommendations will be held on October 12 prior to that evening's Council legislative meeting. It is expected that Council will provide guidance on which of the recommendations should be implemented or further explored at the worksession.

One of the recommendations submitted by the Work Group was the prioritization of the replacement of the existing single-space coin-only meters with multispace pay-and-display meters. This recommendation was brought to the City Council legislative meeting on September 14 with a request to reallocate the funds from the surplus balance in the Metro subsidy fund to purchase and install 125 multispace meters in the Old Town area. This request for \$1.25 million was approved by Council. Staff is currently working on the procurement of the multispace meters and expects the installation to occur within six months. The multispace meters are expected to increase parking meter revenue by approximately 40% and should provide a complete return on investment within two years.

Another recommendation of the Work Group was to conduct a broader study of the residential permit parking district parking utilization and occupancy rates. The group also recommended the exploration of an online permitting system to improve the permit distribution process. Staff will conduct this research during the fall and winter and examine options for improvements to parking in the residential permit districts.

Attachment: Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group - Final Recommendations

B. MT. VERNON TRAIL BICYCLE SIGNAL

With over one million visitors every year, the Mount Vernon Trail is one of the Washington, D.C. region's most popular multi-use trails. The trail is heavily used with a peak of more than 300 bicycles per hour during the summer months. The City of Alexandria is seeking to increase safety for trail users and motorists where the Mount Vernon Trail crosses the Porto Vecchio Condominiums driveway at the intersection of South Alfred Street and South Washington Street. In June 2010, the City submitted a formal request to the Federal Highway Administration to use a bicycle signal to evaluate its potential effectiveness in modifying bicyclist and motorist behavior. The request was approved. The bicycle signal will be implemented in early October, with extensive data collection, surveying, and monitoring of trail conditions being collected both before and after implementation.

C. BRAC-133 FACILITY UPDATE

The following is an update on the studies, plans and initiatives that are being developed to assess address the impacts on transportation facilities resulting from the construction of the BRAC-133 project. The BRAC-133 facility is located adjacent to I-395 in the vicinity of the Seminary Road interchange. The opening of the BRAC-133 facility will impact the transportation facilities in the vicinity of the site.

BRAC-133 Transportation Management Plan (TMP)

- The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) submitted a Final Transportation Management Plan to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), and the NCPC approved the TMP, with some recommendations. City of Alexandria representatives have continued working with USACE and WHS representatives to address concerns with the TMP and are in the process of negotiating a memorandum of agreement. In addition to participating in meetings with the City's BRAC-133 Advisory Group, USACE and WHS continue to participate in separate meetings with City staff and in cooperative discussions with an ad hoc committee formed by the BRAC-133 Advisory Group.
- The City has continued to work with USACE, WHS and transit providers to explore ways to provide service from surrounding Metro stations through enhanced transit services rather than through the use of private shuttles.
- The DASH and WMATA presented conceptual proposals for providing enhanced transit to serve the BRAC-133 on 9/13.
- City staff has conducted Shuttle Route Travel Time Runs to document actual times for providing enhanced transit at 10-minute headways from specific Metro stations to the BRAC-133 site.

- The City has provided information to DoD and WHS to assist in linking the BRAC-133 Transportation Demand Management to the City's established TDM program, LocalMotion.
- The City provided a draft Memorandum of Understanding for consideration by the USACE and WHS proposing that future amendments to the TMP would only be implemented with the specific consent from the City.
- The City of Alexandria has provided information describing the use of police traffic control during peak periods, funded by USACE and WHS, for at least one year to help enhance traffic operations in the vicinity of the site.

Analysis of Short/Mid-Term Improvements

The City is working with the Virginia Department of Transportation to conduct an operational assessment of transportation enhancement that can be implemented in a short and mid-term timeframe to help mitigate the impacts of the BRAC-133 facility. The notice to proceed has been issued. The study is underway, and will last approximately six months. The Total cost of the study is \$133,908. The City is paying for one-half of the total cost and the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) of the Department of Defense (DoD) is paying for the other half.

Analysis of Long-Term Improvements

The City is working with the Virginia Department of Transportation to conduct an operational assessment of transportation enhancement that can be implemented in a long-term timeframe to help mitigate the impacts of the BRAC-133 facility. FHWA has given approval of the scope of work to VDOT, and VDOT can now issue a notice to proceed for the study to commence. The study will last approximately ten months. The Total cost of the study is \$367,354. The City is paying for one-half of the total cost and the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) of the Department of Defense (DoD) is paying for the other half.

BRAC-133 Neighborhood Permit Parking

City Staff held a second meeting with civic and homeowners associations on September 23, 2010 to continue discussions on the potential implementation of a Residential Permit Parking Program (RPPP) in the area surrounding the BRAC-133 facility and delineate boundaries for new permit parking districts.

D. CRYSTAL CITY-POTOMAC YARD TRANSITWAY

On September 28, 2010, the Alexandria City Council had a working session on transit options in Potomac Yard, with most of the time being taken do discuss the Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway. Copies of the presentation will be supplied to Transportation Commission members electronically. City Council agreed with staff that since we have a large sum of money from the federal government and the Commonwealth to build a busway now, which has to be spent quickly, we should move quickly to obligate the funds and build the facility. City Council did not provide informal guidance to staff that

they would like Alexandria to participate with Arlington County in an environmental analysis which includes streetcars as a possible choice in the corridor. Staff will formally request this guidance in October. On October 14th, there will be a joint Alexandria City Council and Arlington County board meeting which will discuss projects of interest to both jurisdictions, including the Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway.