

City of Alexandria

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

TO: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

FROM: RICH BAIER, DIRECTOR OF T&ES
FARROL HAMER, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING A HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT
CORRIDOR WORK GROUP

ISSUE: The establishment of a group to analyze technical issues and information related to developing high capacity transit corridors in the City of Alexandria.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Manager approve establishing a High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group as discussed below, with revisions based on City Council feedback.

BACKGROUND: In 2008, the City adopted a Transportation Master Plan which recommends developing a network of high capacity transitways in three of the most important travel corridors in the City. These corridors generally followed the alignments of Van Dorn-Beauregard, Duke Street, and Route 1. In order to determine the issues and solutions related to this proposed network, the City has contracted with the consulting firm of Kimley-Horn to conduct this study. These include route alignments, methods of operation, types of vehicles which should be used in these corridors at specific times, land use considerations, and financial implications.

In order that this work as it progresses can be vetted periodically with members of the community, staff proposes that the City Manager appoint a small working group of officials, and citizens from throughout the City. The purposes of this group would be to review technical and financial issues which are likely to arise as the consultants and staff assess the issues related to the implementation of high capacity transit in these corridors. This Work Group would be similar in purpose to the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Feasibility Work Group which greatly helped vet the issues related to the Potomac Yard Metrorail station study. Since this plan will have major implications for the entire City, the Work Group should include representatives from throughout the City.

The mission of the Dedicated Transit Corridor Work Group would be to provide input to staff on such issues as route alignments, cross-sections, land use considerations, ridership, and financing.

This Work Group is proposed to include the following representatives: two members of Council, one representative from the Planning Commission, one representative of the Transportation Commission, one representative of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, one representative of the Chamber of Commerce, and two residents appointed by the Federation of Civic Associations (one who lives east of Quaker Lane and one who lives west of Quaker Lane), and one resident of the City who has professional expertise in transit planning.

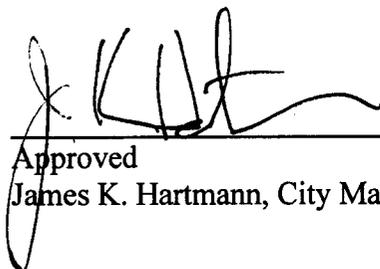
The Council representatives are proposed to be appointed by the Mayor, and the other representatives are proposed to be nominated by the chairs (or other nominating process that the organization may use) of the respective groups listed above.

The Work Group would receive staff and consultant briefings on various aspects of the exclusive transit corridor feasibility study, as the study progresses. The Work Group will review options and priorities, and ensure that technical questions regarding ridership, alignment, method of operations, and finance are addressed. The Work Group would also advise on particular issues of alignment that are arising as a result of the Beauregard corridor study. The Work Group would also host at least several meetings where public input would be sought. It is contemplated that their meetings would also be open to the public.

Staff Support and Schedule:

Transportation and Environmental Services staff will provide coordinating support for this group, supplemented by members of the Planning and Zoning Department and members of the consultant team. This group will be convened on an ad hoc basis to provide input at crucial milestones of the project. With the Beauregard process well underway, with Arlington and Fairfax Counties requesting the City weigh in on the Columbia Pike streetcar relationship from the Skyline area to Alexandria in the early fall, and with the high capacity corridors consultant study already started, it is important that this requested High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group get started as soon as possible.

cc: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager



Approved
James K. Hartmann, City Manager

9.9.10

Date