

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 2, 2011

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: ABI LERNER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 - COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

ISSUE: Discussion of Complete Streets Policy and revised resolution prepared by Transportation Commission (Commission) subcommittee.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission recommend the revised Complete Streets Resolution be adopted by City Council (Council).

DISCUSSION: At its meeting on July 7, the Commission considered a Complete Streets resolution and ordinance that were prepared by a sub-committee of the Commission. The Commission recommended that Council adopt the resolution and Ordinance.

While staff strongly supports the adoption of a Complete Streets resolution to support the City's guiding policies and to create a more multi-modal transportation network Citywide, at the January 5, 2011 Commission meeting, staff recommended support of the adoption of a Complete Streets resolution and the development of a Complete Streets Checklist, as opposed to an ordinance due to the potential for added time to planning and implementation, fiscal constraints and limited staff resources.

After discussion, Commissioners Fossum and Voorhees volunteered to form a subcommittee to refine language in the draft Complete Streets resolution. A motion was made and unanimously approved to table approval of the resolution to a future agenda. It was also suggested that a Commission worksession on Complete Streets may be appropriate.

Since the January Commission meeting, the subcommittee met and revised the resolution (Attachment 1). Revisions include modifications to the resolution language to add clarity and to strengthen the document by replacing "should" with "shall." Other key revisions include the addition of annual reporting requirements to the Transportation Commission on instances where discretion was exercised in applying the Complete Streets policy for capital improvement projects, maintenance projects, Small Area Plans, and development cases with supporting data that indicates the basis for the decision. It was also specified that Small Area Plan and development case staff reports contain a section discussing the Complete Streets review.

To provide further background on how other jurisdictions are implementing Complete Streets, staff invited Ms. Barbara McCann, Executive Director of the Complete Streets Coalition, a national coalition of advocates and transportation professionals working to enact complete streets policies across the country, to speak at the Commission's March 2011 worksession.

Going forward, staff supports the adoption of a Complete Streets resolution and the development of a Complete Streets Checklist to ensure that a Complete Streets review is conducted for all new development projects and City roadway projects, and Complete Streets infrastructure is constructed in all projects to the extent feasible. The Complete Streets Checklist would ensure accommodation of bicyclists, pedestrians, transit vehicles, persons with disabilities and vehicles as appropriate and feasible.

ATTACHMENTS: Revised Complete Streets Resolution