



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

April 6, 2011

7:30 p.m.

City Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mayor William Euille, Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Kevin Posey, Phil Voorhees, and Louisa Ward

Staff Present: Abi Lerner -T&ES, Karen Callaham -T&ES, Sandra Marks - T&ES, Jim Maslanka - T&ES, Brad Putzier - DASH, Carrie Sanders -T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Steve Kaii-Ziegler - P&Z

A quorum being present, the Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

1. March 2, 2011 Minutes

Chair Posey asked if there were any changes to be made to the March minutes. Commissioner Fossum recommended minor editorial comments. There being no edits of substance to the minutes other than Commissioners Fossum's editorial comments, approval was recommended, seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Funding Update

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner, reported that City Council approved the City's Long Range TDM Plan. The Commonwealth Transportation Board agreed to the transfer regarding Alexandria's request to reprogram funds. The Transportation Planning Board approved funds to provide research support for WMATA Governance. They also approved the resolution that amended the FY 2010 CLRP to allow an HOV access ramp at I-395 and Seminary Road. WMATA's received a report that summarized the idea of taking 3 peak hour blue line trips across the yellow line bridge. Northern Virginia Transportation Commission held a meeting to discuss legislation affecting transit. The primary concern is that it would eliminate funding from federal assistance. Northern Virginia Transportation Administration developed final recommendations on the FY 2013-17 RSTP-CMAQ allocation plans. Final approval is expected at their April 2011 meeting.

3. Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit

T&ES staff, Jim Maslanka, gave a chronology of this initiative that predates June 2003. New mixed use development along Route 1 in Alexandria and Arlington caused the need for high capacity transit service. It was decided a bus way was a priority while a joint project was established between both jurisdictions to do an environmental analysis of a possible conversion from bus way to streetcar. The City will also perform an environmental impact statement for a new metro station in Potomac Yard. Upon receipt of \$8.5 million in Federal TIGER funds, a bus way will be constructed from Monroe Avenue to E. Glebe Road connecting to Arlington County's portion of a bus way. Staff is reviewing various operating scenarios for the bus way and developing a coordinated bus way operations plan with Arlington County. The bus way stations and the transitway will have the highest quality of transit features and will be designed in a manner that if a decision is made to convert the bus way to a street car facility, disruptions will be minimized for both jurisdictions. The first public meeting will be held at Cora Kelly Recreation Center on April 13, 2011 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved for the Commission to endorse the City's effort to construct and operate a bus way along Route 1 in the Crystal City-Potomac Yard corridor.

4. Long Range Plan Update

T&ES staff, Sandra Marks, explained that the City's Long Range Plans (LRP) are plans identifying long range transportation needs related to capital projects, programs and studies where funding has not been identified. Once partial or full funding is identified for any of these projects, the projects are moved to the City's Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) list of projects. If the Add-On Tax is adopted with the FY 2012 budget, some of the LRP's identified will be funded. The Transportation Commission Subcommittee will revised and update the LRP list for approval at the next meeting.

5. Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study

T&ES staff Steve Sindiong updated the Commission on this initiative. The study builds upon the Transportation Master Plan recommendation for providing enhanced transit service in three corridors; Route 1 North/South (Corridor A); Duke Street/Eisenhower Avenue (Corridor B); and Van Dorn/Beauregard (Corridor C). The workgroup formed to study and provide citizen input have met 4 times with Corridor C as their first priority. Second level screening criteria is focusing on bus rapid transit connecting to the Pentagon and Shirlington; or bus rapid transit connecting to the Pentagon and Streetcar in mixed flow connecting to Beauregard Town Center; or streetcars in dedicated lanes connecting to Columbia Pike. The chosen alternative is anticipated by late spring 2011.

6. Staff Updates

Complete Streets - At the March meeting, the Commission decided to recommend City Council adopt the revised Complete Streets resolution. Staff will bring the resolution to City Council for adoption on April 12, 2011.

BRAC 133 Update – VDOT committed to \$80 million in funding for a HOV/Transit ramp at I-395 and Seminary Road that includes use of a categorical exclusion for the environmental documentation. DOD and WMATA have agreed in principle to an express shuttle service between the Pentagon and the Mark Center similar to the DASH

and DOD arrangement. The City will serve as a pass through channel for the funding. Discussions continue between Alexandria Fire Department (AFD) and Ft. Belvoir regarding an arrangement where Ft. Belvoir would contribute to capital and operational costs for fire and EMS services. Staff presented a recommendation to the Traffic & Parking Board who approved a new daytime parking district in neighborhoods impacted by BRAC. Staff is drafting the language for the necessary code amendments which will be presented to City Council in May. Staff will begin conducting traffic counts throughout these neighborhoods to determine the existing volumes and speed of traffic in an effort to determine the need and locations for traffic calming measures. DOD and the City signed the letter of agreement modifying DOD's Transportation Management Plan and forwarded the agreement to Washington Headquarters Service for their signature. The cooperative agreement for enhanced transit between the Mark Center and King Street Metro station using the 4 surplus DASH buses has been forwarded to DOD for the final signature.

Parking Update – At its legislative meeting in March, Council approved staff recommendations regarding parking for persons with disabilities. The City will continue to follow the current policy of using the State of Virginia code which allows up to four hours free parking in metered parking spaces for vehicles displaying handicap license plates or placards. Council also approved a 2 year pilot permit parking program that would allow City staff with handicap parking privileges to parking in a metered space for up to 12 hours. The program is for those employees that do not have off street parking at their place of employment.

At the March Traffic & Parking Board meeting, members of the Board unanimously approved the creation of a 8:00 am through 5:00 pm Daytime Parking District parallel to the Overnight Parking District that requires all vehicles parked on the public right-of-way display a valid City decal. Vehicles without a valid City decal would be required to display a visitor's permit obtained by a City resident. Also approved is a single transferable permit to be issued to each residence. Once the parking district is established, residents may activate the parking restrictions through a submission of a petition showing majority support of the restrictions.

7. Commission Updates

Both Chair Posey and Commissioner Ward announced they will be out of town for a conference and will not attend the May Commission meeting. Co-Chair Mitchell will chair the May Transportation Commission meeting. Chair Posey advised all to not miss the June 1 Transportation Commission meeting as there will not be a July or August meeting due to the July 4 holiday and the August recess.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:47 p.m. seconded and unanimously accepted.