



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 Commissioner 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 received a report that summarized the idea of taking three peak hour blue line trips across the yellow line bridge. The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission held a meeting to discuss legislation affecting transit. The primary concern is that it would eliminate funding from federal assistance. The 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. Chair Posey requested that when the Metro transit signage is changed when the Silver line is opened, the King Street Metro signage also be changed to include Old Town in the name.

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 busway was a priority while a joint project was established between both jurisdictions to do an environmental analysis of a possible conversion from busway 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 busway will be constructed from Monroe Avenue to E. Glebe Road connecting to Arlington County's portion of a busway. Staff is reviewing various operating scenarios for the busway and developing a coordinated busway operations plan with Arlington County. The busway 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 busway 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 busway along Route 1 in the Crystal City-Potomac Yard corridor.

4. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

T&ES staff, Sandra Marks, explained that the City's Long Range Transportation Plan identifies 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 projects in the Long Range Transportation Plan will be funded, and possibly moved to the CIP. The Transportation Commission Sub-committee will revise and update the Long Range Transportation plan list for approval at the next meeting.

5. Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study

T&ES staff, Steve Sindiong, updated the Commission on the Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study. 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 four times with Corridor 'C' as their first priority due to current development occurring in that corridor. Second level screening criteria is focusing on evaluating three build alternatives for Corridor 'C', including Alternative D (Bus Rapid Transit connecting to the Pentagon and Shirlington); Alternative E (Streetcar and Bus Rapid Transit connecting to Columbia Pike and the Pentagon), and Alternative G (Full Streetcar from Van Dorn Metro to Columbia Pike). The workgroup will be making a recommendation for a Corridor 'C' alignment by late spring 2011. The review of Corridors 'A' and 'B' will also begin in late Spring 2011 and the study is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2011.

6. Staff Updates

A written staff update on Complete Streets, BRAC-133 and Parking was provided to the Transportation Commission. The Commission accepted the staff updates with no major comments.

7. Commission Updates

Both Chair Posey and Commissioner Ward announced they will not be at the May Commission meeting. Co-Chair Mitchell will chair the May Transportation Commission meeting. Chair Posey advised that 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.

DRAFT