



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

January 5, 2011
7:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 1101

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mayor William D. Euille, Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Rob Krupicka, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Phil Voorhees, Louisa Ward, Justin Wilson

Staff Present: Mark Jinks, CMO, Rich Baier, T&ES, Karen Callahan, T&ES, Abi Lerner, 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 7:32 pm.

1. **January 5, 2011 Minutes**

Chair Posey asked if there were any changes to be made to the December minutes. There being no changes, approval was recommended by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jennings. The December minutes were unanimously approved.

2. **Funding Update**

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner, reported that City Council has considered modifying the City's TMP program structure. The Commonwealth Transportation Board is expected to approve the City's request to transfer funds from the Clermont Connector project to the Potomac Yard plan. Transportation Planning Board held a signing ceremony for the approval of the TIGER grant from which the City will receive funding for the Route 1 Transitway project and the Transit Signal Project on Beauregard. WMATA has set up a Governance Committee to develop bylaws formalizing the Board's Committee structure. WMATA is also requesting legal guidance on two recommendations to a resolution related to WMATA. There have been discussions on the governance of the WMATA Board. Northern Virginia Transportation Commission is negotiating with the State of Virginia concerning WMATA governance issues.

3. **WMATA Governance**

T&ES staff Jim Maslanka reported that a number of highly publicized operations setbacks at WMATA are a major issue for the region. Regional suggestions are that WMATA's governance structure is a key to some recent issues. Four groups, including

Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments – Board of Trade (WMCOG-BOT), the WMATA Rider’s Advisory Council, the Government Accounting Office, and the WMATA Board have all presented WMATA governance proposals. As a result of these proposals, Alexandria is at risk of losing City WMATA representation, as the City is currently an alternate on the WMATA Board. After discussions, the Transportation Commission unanimously endorsed staff’s recommendation for a WMATA Governance Commission, the suggestion of an Ad Hoc Committee to help facilitate governance changes, a Board Chair nominated every two years among WMATA board members and miscellaneous conditions offered by the other groups. Transportation commissioners recommended staff give more thought as to how many WMATA Board members there should be.

4. Priority Transportation Projects

Sandra Marks, T&ES staff, updated the Commission on this initiative. She reported on feedback obtained from community outreach meetings and citizen comments during the public hearing at the November Transportation Commission meeting. She also gave information on upcoming community meetings where additional community input will be heard. After Commission discussion, Commissioner Fossum made a motion and Commissioner Wilson seconded that after the minor edits discussed be incorporated, the list of projects are presented to the City Manager to be considered in preparation of his proposed FY 2012 City budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. CIP Update

Sandra Marks presented staff’s list of the City’s FY 2012 CIP projects for the Transportation Commission’s consideration. After the presentation, Commissioner Fossum made a motion and Commissioner Voorhees seconded the motion to recommend the City Manager incorporate the project list into his FY 2012 City budget.

6. Project Matrix

Carrie Sanders, T&ES staff, gave a brief overview of the project matrix which includes all active transportation projects. The list is being called Project Matrix and includes each project with funding information, project costs, type, description, and funding sources. After the overview, the Commissioners gave recommendations on the formatting of the matrix for clarity.

7. Complete Street Update

Abi Lerner, T&ES staff, recapped how this initiative has evolved. He described challenges in implementing a Complete Streets ordinance as opposed to a Complete Streets policy, due to added time for planning and implementation, fiscal constraints, limited staff resources. Staff has recommended that the Complete Streets policy be brought forward as a resolution. A critical element to the implementation of the policy is a Street Design Manual. At this time the City does not have the resources to create a comprehensive Design Manual, and so staff’s recommendation is to develop a Complete Streets Checklist. This would ensure that a Complete Streets plan review is conducted for all new development, and roadway projects to ensure Complete Streets infrastructure is constructed to the extent feasible. Mr. Lerner added that unlike adjacent municipalities, many of Alexandria’s roads are neither wide enough nor conducive to implement a successful and thorough complete streets ordinance. Commissioners Fossum and Voorhees volunteered to form a subcommittee to craft language for the

creation of a Complete Streets policy. After discussions, a motion was made and unanimously approved to table this item to next month's agenda.

8. Staff Updates

Chair Posey commented that the design of the Beauregard and Seminary Road intersection encourages more single occupancy vehicle travel into the City. Mr. Lerner noted that the design will have positive impacts as it reduces delays which causes pollution and provides easy access into the BRAC facility.

Sandra Marks reported that on February 10, two meetings on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be held at Cora Kelly from 4:30 – 6:00 pm and 6:30 – 8pm.

9. Commission Updates

Jennifer Mitchell reminded staff to consider developing work sessions for the Transportation Commission on pertinent topics.

10. Other Business

Chair Posey noted that the acoustics of the SisterCities room and general layout are not very conducive to public meetings, and suggested that staff consider another possible meeting location, such as the Council work room. Staff will identify alternative meeting spaces and bring the information back at the next Commission meeting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 9:59 pm, seconded and unanimously accepted.