



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

September 7, 2011
7:30 p.m.
City Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Councilman Krupicka, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Phil Voorhees, Louisa Ward and Justin Wilson

Staff Present: Abi Lerner -T&ES, Karen Callaham -T&ES, Sandra Marks - T&ES, Jim Maslanka - T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Susan Gygi – T&ES, Jeff Farner - P&Z

A quorum being present, the Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

1. June 1, 2011 Minutes

Chair Posey asked if there were any changes to be made to the June minutes. Under the Funding Update, it was recommended to change the wording of “2.2 cents” to “2.2 cents of each \$100”. In addition, other minor edits were provided by Ms. Fossum. Approval of the minutes was recommended, seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Funding Update

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner, reported that City Council adopted a revised \$144.8 million 10-year Transportation Project Plan, and approved decreased headways on the King Street Trolley. The Commonwealth Transportation Board awarded the City additional funding to match funds the City has allocated in its FY2012 budget to buy expansion buses. The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved a resolution to approve air quality conformity analysis needed for an amendment for the Constrained Long Range Plan to build a new exit ramp from the HOV lanes on I-395 at Seminary Road. The WMATA Board approved the institution of new Metrobus service from Mark Center to the Pentagon. The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) was given permission to file a request for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to be used to construct transitway stations on Route 1. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) approved requests for additional CMAQ and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds if they can be obligated quickly.

3. RSTP / CMAQ Request for FY2013 – PUBLIC HEARING

T&ES staff, Jim Maslanka, provided an overview of the candidate list of CMAQ/RSTP projects for 2013-2018. The City must submit a funding request to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority by September 30, 2011. Comments from the public included support for bike sharing and other bicycle improvements. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to endorse the FY2013-2018 candidate list of CMAQ/RSTP projects.

4. King Street Metro Improvements

Staff received comments on the King Street Improvements project at the May 4, 2011 Transportation Commission general meeting and public hearing. There were questions and comments concerning the kiss-and ride; way finding; sidewalk materials; taxi layover spaces; improved bicycling features; accommodation in the plan for expansion; additional space for shuttles/school buses; brick sidewalks on the perimeter of site set in concrete; King Street/Daingerfield/Diagonal, Duke /Diagonal and Daingerfield /Duke intersection analyses to review bus, vehicular and pedestrian movements; and trees provided in accordance with City criteria. Mr. Maslanka, provided a response to the comments that were received. There was additional discussion related to the use of brick sidewalks, bus layover space, and the renaming of King Street station.

5. Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study – Corridor C – PUBLIC HEARING

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner, provided an overview on the background for Corridor C (Van Dorn/Beauregard), the analysis of alternatives considered, and the High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group (CWG) recommendation for Corridor C. The Commission raised questions related to vehicle capacity, development potential of streetcar vs. bus rapid transit, and transition from bus rapid transit to streetcar. Comments from the public included the need for improved connectivity to the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), potential impacts to traffic operations along Sanger Avenue at Van Dorn Street, support for a streetcar operation, support for using existing lanes to accommodate the transitway, and accommodation for pedestrians and bicyclists.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to recommend that the City Council adopt the recommendation of the CWG for Corridor C, with two caveats: 1) the alignment be optimized to better serve the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), and; 2) Recommend that the Transportation Commission be tasked to identify decision criteria, evaluate and monitor the transition from Alternative D (Bus Rapid Transit in dedicated lanes) to Alternative G (Streetcar in dedicated lanes), and periodically provide updates to the City Council.

6. 2012 Legislative Package

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner, provided an overview on the recommendations made by the Transportation Commission Legislative Subcommittee, for proposals for the Legislative Package for the 2012 General Assembly Session, for City Council consideration.

7. FY 2013 CIP Update

T&ES staff, Sandra Marks provided an update on the work of the Transportation Commission CIP sub-committee. The sub-committee met over the summer to review the projects in the approved FY 2012 and rank projects still needing additional funding. The projects that the sub-committee felt should be funded in the FY 2013 CIP include: DASH Fleet Expansion, Bus Shelters and Benches, Shared Use Paths, Non-Motorized Transportation Complete Streets and Safety, Fixed Equipment and Transportation Technologies. The Transportation

Commission was comfortable with the list of projects to be funded and staff will bring a proposed funding plan to the Transportation Commission at the October meeting for public hearing and recommendation to the City Manager for inclusion in the FY 2013 budget.

8. Staff Updates

Justin Wilson asked whether any recent traffic counts have been completed for the BRAC area. Abi Lerner responded that VDOT is conducting counts, and that the City will conduct counts at other locations not being done by VDOT. The results of the traffic counts can be provided at the next Transportation Commission meeting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 9:55 p.m. seconded and unanimously accepted.

DRAFT