

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 4, 2012

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: ABI LERNER, P.E. DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #2 - FUNDING UPDATE & ACTIONS OF MAJOR TRANSPORTATION BODIES

ISSUE: Update of funding and actions of major transportation bodies.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive the report.

DISCUSSION: This memorandum provides a brief monthly update on funding and/or actions of major regional transportation bodies that relate to Alexandria.

General updates on funding-related issues of local, regional and national importance are provided below. Attachment 1 is the Commission's regular Monthly Update of Regional Transportation Board Major Actions and Funding.

City: City Council

On December 17, 2011, the City Council adopted a Master Plan Amendment to change land use designation in the Small Area Plan, and approved a rezoning and Development Special Use Permit to construct a new Safeway store at 3526 King Street. The approval has several transportation requirements, including the construction of enhancements adjacent to the proposed development site and partial funding for the design of improvements at the King/Quaker/Braddock intersection.

State: Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)

The CTB received a presentation on the major business terms which were developed for the I-95 HOT Lane project. The Commonwealth was also awarded a \$20 million TIGER III grant to support this project. The Commonwealth decided to include an auxiliary lane on I-395 between Duke Street and Seminary Road into the new regional CLRP.

Regional: Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)

Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

The Transportation Planning Board was provided with information items detailing the changing composition of the regional vehicle fleet and freeways which are observed to have major levels of traffic congestion as observed by aerial photography.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

The WMATA Board received a presentation on the preliminary operating budget and progress being made with the capital program. The Board also continued to discuss a strategic plan for the Authority. In December, the Governance Work Group convened by the Governors of Virginia and Maryland and the Mayor of the District of Columbia released its final report on WMATA governance. The report was generally positive with respect to the Board's actions over the past year but suggested a few changes such as smaller board committees, term limits for Board members, multi-year appointments of Board Chairs, and criteria for appointment to the Board. The recommendations did not address the number of people on the Board or role of alternates on the Board.

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)

NVTC passed a resolution which permitted the VRE to enter into a grant agreement with VDOT for FHWA Rail Crossing and Safety Program funds to construct a pedestrian tunnel between the Alexandria Union Station and the King Street Metro station. This work will cost \$7,470,000 and require no local match. This project is being managed by VRE and City will participate in the project as a key stakeholder.

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)

No NVTA meeting was scheduled for December, 2011.

Federal: Funding Updates and Grant Notices of Awards

As mentioned previously in the NVTC item, VRE has received a FHWA grant award to construct a pedestrian tunnel from Alexandria Union Station to the King Street Metro station.

Attachment 1: Monthly Update of Non-Federal Transportation Board Major Actions & Funding