City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 24, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #53: COMPLETE STREETS

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Krupicka's request regarding reactivating the City's traffic calming/iN-STEP program and designing the new program as a "Complete Streets" focused program where transportation programs and projects identified in Small Area Plans, development cases, and City maintenance and Capital Projects, will improve the transportation network for all users to the maximum extent possible throughout the City. A Complete Streets program could fund pedestrian facilities including crosswalks, sidewalks and pedestrian safety infrastructure, bicycle facilities including bike lanes, sharrow markings and other bicycle infrastructure, and traffic calming devices to manage traffic speeds and volumes.

Due to fiscal reductions, funding for the traffic calming program was eliminated in FY 2010. Previously, the program included funding for a full time Traffic Calming Coordinator in the operating budget and Capital Improvement Program Plan (CIP) funding. The FY 2009 approved CIP multi-year plan included $2.3 million in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014 combined.

If Council wished to reactivate a Complete Streets Program, one new Complete Streets Coordinator position would need to be added to develop and implement the City's Complete Streets guidelines as recommended by the Transportation Commission and restore CIP funding for the construction of new Complete Streets infrastructure. Staff estimates the cost to hire a Complete Streets Coordinator GS 21, C-Step (salary/benefits) is $81,675. Staff estimates a cost of $350,000 in CIP funding for design and construction of small projects and an additional $100,000 for operating maintenance costs. The total cost to activate this program would be $531,675.

Since the original cost to reactivate traffic calming memo was sent to City Council on October 3, 2011, staff has received additional requests for complete street/traffic calming projects at the following locations:

- Sommerville Road (speed humps/pedestrian safety)
- Chalfonte (speed humps/pedestrian safety)
- Wellington (speed humps/pedestrian safety)
- Potomac Greens Drive (speed humps)

- Upland/King (crossing improvement)
- Mount Eagle (crossing improvement)
- Dawes Avenue (sidewalk)
- Hilltop Terrace (sidewalk)
- Duke Street/John Carlyle (crossing improvement)
- Eisenhower Avenue/Hooff's Run Drive (crossing improvement)
- Duke Street/Fayette Street (crossing improvement)
- 2500 North Van Dorn Street (crossing improvement)
- North Van Dorn Street at Seminary Plaza (sidewalk)
- Taney Avenue (sidewalks)

A reinstated traffic calming/In-Step program was considered by City staff for funding as part of the FY 2013 proposed budget, but this program did not rank high enough in comparison to other capital needs for funding.