



# City of Alexandria

## Transportation Commission

### Regular Meeting

June 6, 2012

7:30 p.m.

City Council Workroom

### MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Donna Fossum, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Louisa Ward, and Justin Wilson

**Staff Present:** Megan Cummings – T&ES, Jim Maslanka – T&ES, Abi Lerner -T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Marti Reinfeld - T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Karen Callahan – T&ES, Steve Kaii-Ziegler – P&Z

A quorum being present, the Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:30pm.

#### 1. **May 2, 2012 Minutes**

Commissioner Posey asked if there were any comments regarding the May 2, 2012 meeting minutes. Commissioner Fossum recommended approval as submitted. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

#### 2. **Funding Update**

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner reported:

**City Council:** Approved (on May 6) the City's FY2013 Operating budget and FY2013-18 CIP; approved the design of Route 1 High Capacity Transitway on May 12, 2012; and approved reallocation of City's Transportation Improvement funds to pay for first year of operations for the Capital Bikeshare pilot program.

**Commonwealth Transportation Board:** The City sent a letter to the CTB commenting on the Draft 6 Year Plan (FY2013-18).

**TPB:** Adopted a Complete Streets Policy for the National Capital Region.

**WMATA:** The Board approved the FY 2013 operating and capital budget. The budget includes shifting some blue line trains to the bridge going over the Potomac River (rather than Rosslyn tunnel) in preparation for changes needed for Silver Line implementation. Alexandria and Arlington have developed a bus alternative for people to travel from Alexandria to the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor.

**NVTC:** The Board approved NVTC applying for FTA grants to conduct environmental work needed for the Potomac Yard Metro Station; NVTC and jurisdictions have given directive to change the way Commonwealth funds are given to jurisdictions in Northern Virginia.

NVTA: The 2040 Transportation Plan was discussed at the May 10, 2012 meeting.

**3. Transportation Planning Administrative Guidelines**

T&ES staff Megan Cummings gave an update on the Transportation Planning Administrative Guidelines. The Guidelines are a companion piece to the Transportation Management Plan Ordinance and apply to development projects seeking a Special Use Permit of a certain size and type (i.e. land use changes and small retailers will not be subject to the Guidelines), as dictated by the Ordinance. The Guidelines create certainty for applicants and staff about the development process and content for submitting multimodal transportation studies and Transportation Management Plans (TMPs). Once the document is approved as part of the TMP Ordinance update by City Council, it will be reviewed and updated annually as necessary. Staff will update the Commission in the fall, 2012.

**4. Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway Update**

T&ES staff Susan Gygi gave an update on the Route 1 Transit Corridor. Ms. Gygi discussed the design elements that were approved by both the Planning Commission and City Council, and pointed out the Planning Commission added conditions to ensure a safe and attractive pedestrian environment at the pedestrian crossing and transit stops. The Planning Commission also noted the importance of the transit stations (shelters) and recommended that the design of the transit stations be subject to future review by the Planning Commission. There will be a June 14, 2012 Public Meeting on Concept Designs for Stations at the Cora Kelly Recreation Center from 6:30-8:30pm. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2012.

**5. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP)**

T&ES staff Sandra Marks gave an update on the 2012 Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP). The LRP identifies the City's long-range transportation needs and is an unconstrained list of all transportation related capital projects, programs and studies identified in City plans and policies adopted since the 2011 LRP. Projects in the LRP have no identified funding source. Once projects in the LRP receive partial or full funding, they are moved from the unconstrained LRP to the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). With the adoption of the FY 2012 CIP and the ten-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), many of the projects in the LRP moved to the CIP and (TIP). With Council adopting the FY 2013 budget and approving the Beauregard Plan, recommended changes to the LRP include the addition of two projects identified in the adopted Beauregard Small Area Plan and a number of studies and projects have been removed from the LRP since they are either underway or are captured in an existing CIP project. A public hearing will be held during the July 11, 2012 Transportation Commission meeting to finalize the rating and adoption of the revised LRP.

**6. Staff Updates**

Potomac Yard Metrorail Station

The Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Group (PYMIG) met on May 16, 2012 to discuss the EIS Public Input and Decision Making Flowchart.

Work continues on the analysis and determination of impacts and potential mitigation of each of the three build alternatives. Preliminary capital cost estimates are anticipated in Fall, 2012 at the next PYMIG.

### Route 1 Corridor Streetcar Conversion Project

The City of Alexandria and Arlington County agreed in 2011 to study the potential conversion of the Crystal City-Potomac Yard (CCPY) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) facility to a streetcar operation, as a coordinated project between the two jurisdictions. The agreement included a consensus to complete the necessary environmental work to determine the impacts of a conversion to streetcar. Arlington County has determined that it does not anticipate requesting federal New Starts/Small Starts funding for the conversion of its portion of the transitway, and therefore, will not be conducting an Alternatives Analysis (AA). However, the AA is necessary if the City wants to maintain the option of applying and competing for federal New Starts/Small Starts funding for the portion within Alexandria. As a solution, the City and County has decided to break the streetcar conversion study into multiple phases. Arlington would complete the environmental review, and anticipates having its Crystal City streetcar segment constructed and under operation by 2018 or 2019. In the meantime, the City will complete the environmental review for the Potomac Yard Metrorail station. Once a preferred location is determined for the station, the City will proceed with the AA for the conversion of the City's segment. The City's Potomac Yard streetcar segment, if implemented, could be completed and operable approximately two years after the Arlington segment is operational.

#### **7. Commission Updates**

No August Transportation Commission meeting.

#### **8. Other Business**

None.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 08:45, seconded and unanimously accepted.