



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

July 11, 2012

7:30 p.m.

City Council Workroom

MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Susan Gygi – T&ES, Abi Lerner -T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Jim Maslanka – T&ES, Marti Reinfeld - T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Karen Callahan – T&ES, Steve Kai-Ziegler, P&Z

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

1. June 6, 2012 Minutes

Commissioner Posey asked if there were any comments regarding the June 6, 2012 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and unanimously approved.

2. Funding Update

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner reported:

City Council: Approved (on June 13, 2012) the staff proposal to implement the Del Ray-Arlandria Trolley; Endorsed the Transportation & Planning Commission recommendations for Transitway Corridors A and B on June 16, 2012; Approved the course of action the City will take on the possible conversion of the Potomac Yard Busway to a streetcar operation on June 16, 2012.

Commonwealth Transportation Board: Approved the Six-Year Improvement Plan (FY2013-18) on June 20, 2012; Method for dispersing Commonwealth transit funds to Northern Virginia jurisdictions and WMATA to be decided on July 18, 2012.

TPB: Approved a set of applications for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funds.

WMATA: Board received information on a new way to pay for station improvements and provided a detailed customer services action plan; began new Rush Plus service in June 2012, and an extension of Route 10E from the Pentagon to Rosslyn.

NVTC: Board discussed a directive from DRPT to change the way Commonwealth funds are given to jurisdictions in Northern VA.

NVTA: The Efficiency and Effectiveness Study to review the structure of transportation functions in Northern VA was being worked on by staff and reviewed by public officials.

3. Long Range Transportation Plan – Public Hearing

T&ES staff Sandra Marks gave a presentation on the proposed 2012 Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP) which was followed by discussions between the Commissioners. The LRP is an unconstrained list of transportation related capital projects, programs and studies identified in City plans and policies. Projects on the LRP have no identified funding source. Once projects on the LRP receive partial or full funding, they are moved from the unconstrained LRP to the City's CIP. Plans, studies, programs and projects adopted since the 2011 LRP are included in the proposed 2012 update. During Commission discussion, there was a recommendation that the LRP subcommittee meet to discuss the LRP criteria, and that future work sessions be held to discuss the criteria and the transportation project matrix. Following the Commission discussion, the Chair opened the Public Hearing and heard from a representative of the Environmental Policy Commission and West Old Town Citizens Association. Commissioner Fossum made a motion to adopt the 2012 LRP Update as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and unanimously approved.

4. Del Ray Trolley

T&ES staff Marti Reinfeld gave an update on the Del Ray Trolley which was approved by City Council on June 13, 2012. The new trolley service will connect with the King Street Trolley beginning at the King Street Metrorail Station, traverse north on Commonwealth, southeast on Braddock Road to the Braddock Road Metrorail Station, north on Mt. Vernon Avenue, west on W. Glebe Road, south on Russell Road to Mt. Vernon Avenue and then return. The planned route is 4.2 miles one-way, with an estimated total travel time of 36 minutes. Days and hours of operation will be Thursday & Friday from 3 pm - 10:30 pm and Saturday & Sunday from 11:30 AM - 10:30 pm. Staff will develop a Request for Proposals to select an operator for the new trolley service. Service is anticipated to begin in November 2012.

5. Route 1 Transitway Update

T&ES staff Susan Gygi gave an update on the Crystal City/Potomac Yard (Route 1 transit corridor) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Station Concept Design, and Route 1 Streetcar conversion project. The Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transitway is a 5-mile corridor that runs from the Pentagon City Metrorail station to the Braddock Road Metrorail station. The portion of the Transitway that runs through Alexandria is known as the Route 1 BRT and runs from Potomac Avenue to E. Glebe Road. There will be seven stations within the Route 1 BRT operating on both the northbound and southbound sides, including: East Swann Avenue; East Custis Avenue; and Potomac Avenue. East Glebe Road's southbound station is also on Route 1, however its northbound station will be located within Potomac Yards. The opening is expected in December 2013. Staff met with the community on June 14, 2012 to solicit input on concept design elements that were important to the community. As a result, staff has selected a design that will be presented to City Council and the Planning Commission at their meetings in September, 2012. A complete station design is expected in November 2012. Arlington County is proceeding with the Environmental Assessment for the Streetcar which will terminate north of Four Mile Run. After the Potomac Yard Metrorail station location is determined, the Alternatives Analysis could be initiated for the potential streetcar conversion for a portion, or the remaining section, of the corridor south of Arlington.

6. Staff Updates

Transitway Corridor Feasibility

Staff presented the Corridor Work Group (CWG) and Transportation Commission recommendations to the Planning Commission who concurred but instructed staff to review the process that would need to be followed to remove the section of Corridor A south of Braddock Road Metro from the Transportation Master Plan. For Corridor B, the Planning Commission concurred with the CWG and Transportation recommendations but recommended minimal impacts to businesses and homeowners along Duke Street, and noted that a bicycle facility along Duke Street be accommodated only if studies demonstrate that the streetscape can still be enhanced. Staff presented the recommendations for Corridors A and B to City Council and held a public hearing. Council approved the recommendations as made by the Planning Commission and asked that staff hold meetings with the CWG and Transportation Commission to review changes and prepare an amendment to the Transportation Master Plan for Corridor A. The proposed amendment changes will be presented to the CWG and Transportation Commissions at a joint meeting in October 2012, prior to being presented to the Planning Commission and Council.

BRAC-133 Update

Construction for the short-term improvements has started. Design and right-of-way acquisition for the implementation of the mid-term improvements is also underway. The City has not received the Transportation Management Plan monitoring report from Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) although requests have been made. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the HOV/Transit ramp at Seminary Road/I-395 but has not issued a finding yet with respect to allowing or not allowing right turns at the top of the ramp in the morning, and left turns from westbound Seminary Road in the afternoon. A decision on this issue is expected by the end of July 2012.

7. Commission Updates

None.

8. Other Business

Commissioner Mitchell noted that the Commission would like to receive updated BRAC -133 traffic information including VDOT queue analysis..

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 09:02 pm, seconded and unanimously accepted.