

# *City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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## **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 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

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**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**

No City Council meetings were held in July or August, 2012.

**State: Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)**

A new methodology for allocating transit funds to northern Virginia was passed by the CTB on July 18, 2012. This is documented in the attached resolution (See Attachment 2). Staff is working with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to make the changes needed by this new policy. Briefly, these changes require that all jurisdictions receiving DRPT funds need to accept the funds from DRPT and to book them, before they can be allocated to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), which can act as our agent. Prior to this change, the funds were sent directly to NVTC.

**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 approved the 2012 CLRP and FY2013-2018 TIP. The TPB also received a summary of the MAP-21 legislation, which was signed by President Obama on July 6, 2012.

*Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)*

The WMATA Board adopted a set of policies which will govern any station naming activity at Metrorail stations. The WMATA Board also engaged in an extensive strategic framework discussion.

*Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)*

At its July 5, 2012 meeting, the NVTC Board discussed a directive from the Commonwealth's Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to change the way the Commonwealth funds are given to jurisdictions in northern Virginia. The final decision was made by the CTB at its meeting on July 18, 2012. Meetings and conference calls have occurred throughout the months of July and August to implement this change. The NVTC Board adopted a Vanpool Incentive Program, to acquire vanpool operations data, which can produce additional transit subsidies. The NVTC Board also approved an action to allow NVTC staff to acquire federal grants which will be used for the Alternatives Analysis and Environmental Assessment needed for the Transit Corridor C, in Alexandria.

*Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)*

No NVTA meeting occurred in July, 2012. The Efficiency and Effectiveness study to review the structure of transportation functions in Northern Virginia was being worked on by staff and reviewed by public officials. A meeting of the Efficiency and Effectiveness study occurred on August 23, 2012 which summarized key findings of the study thus far.

**Federal: Funding Updates and Grant Notices of Awards**

On July 8, 2012, President Obama signed a two year transportation reauthorization bill called MAP-21 which significantly changes some aspects of federal transportation funding. Staff have been obtaining more information regarding this bill and how it could impact Alexandria.