

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #6 – TRANSACTION 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

ISSUE: Update on the TransAction 2040 Regional Transportation Plan

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive the draft plan.

DISCUSSION: This memorandum provides an update on the TransAction 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. In July 2002, the Virginia General Assembly created the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and charged it with developing a Northern Virginia regional transportation plan, with an update every five years. The last update came in June 2006, when the NVTA Board adopted the Northern Virginia 2030 Transportation Plan (2030 Plan).

TransAction 2040 is a fiscally unconstrained plan which serves as an update to the 2030 Plan. It includes projects carried forward from the 2030 Plan; all projects currently in the region's adopted Financially Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP); new transportation projects; an updated evaluation and prioritization process; and a cost-benefit analysis. The goals for Transaction 2040 include:

- Provide an integrated, multimodal transportation system;
- Provide responsive transportation service to customers;
- Respect historical and environmental factors;
- Maximize community connectivity by addressing transportation and land use together;
- Incorporate the benefits of technology;
- Identify funding and legislative initiatives needed to implement the Plan; and
- Enhance Northern Virginia relationships among jurisdictions, agencies, the public and the business community

City of Alexandria staff provided an overview of the TransAction 2040 Plan to the Transportation Commission at its November 3, 2010 meeting. Staff requested guidance from the

Transportation Commission on the list of future transportation projects that would be provided to NVT A for the TransAction 2040 Plan. A Transportation Commission subcommittee was formed, comprising of Kevin Posey and Phillip Voorhees. The projects recommended by the subcommittee were approved by the Transportation Commission at its December 2010 meeting. In March 2011, City staff submitted the approved projects to NVT A. Since that time, NVT A has analyzed all projects submitted by each NVT A member jurisdiction using the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's travel demand model. The following scenarios were modeled:

- Base Scenario: 2040 land use assumptions and all projects in the 2011 CLRP
- Build Scenario: 2040 land use assumptions, all projects in the 2011 CLRP, 2030 Plan projects, and additional projects provided by jurisdictions
- Build 2 Scenario: 2040 land use assumptions, the 2040 Build Scenario, and an additional ten projects to address corridor deficiencies identified in the Build Scenario

The Build 2 Scenario generated the most benefits in terms of travel time savings, improved levels of congestion, and encouraging more use of high-occupancy modes such as transit and HOV.

After the model runs were conducted for each Scenario, a set of evaluation criteria were developed to assess the degree to which specific projects were compatible with planning goals. The criteria included both qualitative and quantitative measures, such as congestion reduction, safety, person throughput, travel time reduction, costs, and VMT reduction. Projects were scored based on how well they performed against these criteria. A cost-benefit analysis then considered the project score in relation to the project cost. The project scores and cost-benefit ratings were used to determine the priorities for investment, recognizing that there remains a challenge to funding all needed transportation improvements.

The draft TransAction 2040 Plan includes several City projects that were not a part of the 2030 Plan. Among the most significant to Alexandria include:

- South Van Dorn Street Improvements
- King Street Metrorail Station Parking and Bus Lane Reconfiguration
- Transit Corridor A
- Transit Corridor B
- Transit Corridor C
- DASH Bus Service Enhancements
- Rail connection between the Metrorail Green Line in Prince George's County to Alexandria via the Wilson Bridge
- Alexandria's Union Station to King Street Metrorail Station Pedestrian Tunnel

- Duke Street Complete Street
- King/Quaker/Braddock Intersection Improvements
- Bicycle and Pedestrian trails along Holland Lane, Holmes Run, and from Cameron Street to Crystal City
- Transportation Technologies
- Multi-Modal bridge from Van Dorn Metrorail Station to Pickett Street

To solicit public input during the preparation of the TransAction2040 Plan, NVTA created a Citizen Technical Advisory Committee, a Planning Coordination Advisory Committee, and held a public open house in April 2012. The public engagement effort focused on developing a regional consensus on transportation improvement priorities.

TransAction 2040 is a dynamic, evolving plan that will help the region identify major transportation needs. The City will continue to ensure that the community, City Council, and the Transportation Commission are involved in the process of refining these and new transportation projects throughout the process of project development.

NEXT STEPS: The Alexandria City Council will be asked to endorse the TransAction 2040 Plan at its September 11, 2012 meeting. The NVTA Board will be asked to approve and finalize the TransAction 2040 Plan at its November 2012 meeting.

Inclusion of a project in TransAction 2040 is the first step in the transportation planning process, but there is no funding associated with the plan. To be eligible for funding, projects identified in TransAction 2040 must be included in the City's Long Range Plan, as well as the region's CLRP and the six-year Transportation Improvement Program. All projects currently in the region's CLRP were included in TransAction 2040. Any new projects identified through the TransAction 2040 process would need to be added to the CLRP in the future.