



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Joint Meeting with the High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group

October 3, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Charles Houston Recreation Center

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Donna Fossum, John Komoroske, Kevin Posey, Josh Sawislak, Louisa Ward, and Justin Wilson

High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group Members Present: Councilman Paul Smedberg, Donna Fossum, John Komoroske, Poul Hertel, Anna Bentley

Staff Present: Rich Baier – T&ES, Marti Reinfeld - T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Karen Callahan – T&ES, Pat Mann – P&Z, Steve Kai-Ziegler, Raymond Mui – DASH

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

1. **September 5, 2012 Minutes**

Commissioner Posey asked if there were any comments regarding the September 5, 2012 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the September 2012 minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2. **Transportation Master Plan Amendment (Transitways) – PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Posey detailed that the Transportation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council have agreed to the High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group's (CWG) Corridor A, B, and C transitway recommendations to the Transportation Master Plan in previous meetings and hearings. He stated that the reason this item is on the October 3 agenda is to finalize the language of the amendments. Upon tonight's review and vote of the proposed amendments by the CWG and Transportation Commission, the Planning Commission will review and vote on the proposed amendments at its November 8, 2012 meeting, prior to being forwarded to City Council for approval before the end of the year. After staff's presentation, discussions among the CWG and Transportation Commission members, the meeting was opened for public comments and a Q&A period. The Public Hearing began with citizens Yvonne Petry, Jonathan Krall, Francisco Laguna, Jessie Link, Erin Winograd, Leslie Zupan and Heidi Ford communicating their views. Following questions to staff and discussion among Commissioners and CWG members, a motion was made to approve the amendments and forward them to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded. Discussions among CWG member and Transportation Commissioners ensued. Afterwards, an amendment was made to Corridor B, Alternative 3c changing "Alternative 3c **would** be the subsequent phase"

to “Alternative 3c **may** be the subsequent phase”. A motion was made to approve the amendment and all of the amendments were unanimously approved as a package.

3. Funding Update

4. T&ES staff, Marti Reinfeld reported:

City Council: Endorsed the TransAction 2040 Plan; approved Alexandria submission for CMAQ-RSTP plan (FY 2014-19); and approved execution of operating and capital funding agreements between City and DRPT.

DRPT: Provided briefing to Commonwealth transportation and transit agencies a report resulting from SJR297 (passed in 2011). Final report is anticipated during the upcoming General Assembly session.

Commonwealth Transportation Board: Received briefing on implications for the Commonwealth of MAP-21 legislation, which consolidates Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to Schools, and Recreational Trails programs into a “Transportation Alternatives” program.

TPB: Received an update concerning setting safety margins for mobile emissions budgets for fine particulate matter, on a revised method of designating major activity centers, and a new program to study bus operations on expressway shoulders.

WMATA: Approved revision to budget PY Metrorail Station EIS project.

Board authorized staff to hold public hearings regarding bus service changes.

NVTC: Approved resolution allowing staff to establish financial accounts to receive state funds from DRPT, as an agent for jurisdictions.

Federal: New transportation legislation (MAP-21) includes key changes as outlined in the Commission memorandum.

5. Staff Updates

Crystal City / Potomac Yard Transitway (Route 1 BRT): A grant to the City will be allocated to the design/build of the Route 1 Bus Rapid Transitway (BRT) between Monroe Avenue and Potomac Avenue in a dedicated transitway. 90% design plans have been completed and reviewed by City Staff. 100% design plans are currently underway. There is an issue with the depth of a Dominion Virginia Power transmission line. The City and Dominion Virginia Power are in the process of evaluating options. Major construction will begin on the southern portion of the transitway (near Potomac Avenue) in October.

Potomac Yard Metrorail Station: The project is an infill Metrorail Station between the National Airport and Braddock Road Metrorail Stations on the blue and yellow lines located in the vicinity of the Potomac Yard. Impact assessments for various areas are currently underway. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and locally preferred alternative is anticipated in early-mid 2013 City Council vote.

Transportation Impact Study Guidelines: At the June 2012 Transportation Commission meeting, a Transportation Planning Administrative Guidelines update was received by the Commissioners. At the April 2012 Transportation Commission meeting, the TMP Ordinance update was received by the Commissioners. The Zoning Ordinance language and the administrative guidelines will be submitted to the Planning Commission in spring with final adoption anticipated by City Council in spring 2013. The Guidelines will be approved initially as part of the TMP Ordinance update, and will be updated annually.

6. Commission Updates

- Commissioners Fossum asked that a Town Hall Meeting be arranged for Wakefield Tarleton area residents to explain misinformation regarding Transit Corridor B.
- Chair Posey volunteered to be the Transportation Commission representative on the Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Work Group as Commissioner Mitchell has to step down due to her a conflict of interest as a result of her employment.

7. Other Business

The next meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. rather than 7:30 p.m. due to the large amount of agenda items and public hearing on the Union Street study.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:50 pm, seconded and unanimously accepted.