

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2012

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: SANDRA MARKS, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #2 - FUNDING UPDATE & ACTIONS OF MAJOR TRANSPORTATION BODIES

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

At the City Council meeting of November 13, 2012, Council approved an application for VDOT revenue sharing funds to rehabilitate Eisenhower Avenue from S. Van Dorn Street to Clermont Avenue. At the November 27, 2012 legislative meeting, City Council considered several transportation measures in the legislative package, including: supporting a letter from Virginia Crescent jurisdictions endorsing additional transportation funds, providing funds for the NVTA, providing funds for the Potomac Yard Metro, and opposing measures proposed in SJR297 to base State transportation funding on performance indicators.

State: Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)

At its meeting of November 5, 2012, the CTB received a briefing on the 2035 update of the Virginia Surface Transportation Plan. They discussed investment priorities and performance-based planning. City staff has been involved in the development of the Statewide Transit and TDM Plan which is providing project and investment information that will be included in the final 2035 Plan.

State: Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Under the previous federal transportation bill, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

allocated money for commuter railroads to pay track access lease fees. VRE relied on this funding source to compensate AMTRAK for track access. MAP-21 eliminated this earmarked source of funds, although the total amount of money going to the states remains the same. If the Commonwealth does not continue to cover the cost of track access fees, VRE could experience a \$9-14M deficit in FY 2014. This deficit would likely be made up by increasing jurisdictional subsidies or significantly increasing passenger fares. The Commonwealth has not made a formal commitment to continue this funding. In its testimony on the FY 2014 – FY 2019 SYIP, the City urged the CTB to identify funding for this purpose.

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)

TPB discussed the CLRP and two federal transportation programs revised by MAP-21: the Transportation Alternatives Program and the revised Section 5310 program.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

The WMATA Board approved for the release of a report which reviewed WMATA Board member actions in a real estate transaction.

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)

NVTC received a briefing on the Transportation Efficiency and Consolidation Task Force and approved the final report.

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)

NVTA approved the Transportation Efficiency and Consolidation study, as well as the FY 2014 – FY 2019 RSTP and CMAQ program for northern Virginia. The City received the full CMAQ and RSTP funding amounts that it requested.

Federal: Funding Updates and Grant Notices of Awards

Additional information about the implications of MAP-21 continues to be released.