

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 9, 2013

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 December 11, 2012, Council approved an application for a grant to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to continue funding the City's Transportation Demand Management Program in FY2014.

State: Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)

At its meeting of December 5, 2012, the CTB authorized entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with WMATA to upgrade transit signal equipment to implement Transit Signal Priority (TSP) along Route 7 in northern Virginia.

State: Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

DRPT Director Drake sent a letter to VRE concerning the restoration of VRE track access fees. A portion of the fees was included in the Governor's budget. Commonwealth expects to be able to cover 80-90% of the fees in FY14. VRE, however, assumed that 100% of the fees would be covered in its FY14 budget. The agency will now have to find funding to cover the gap. Currently, no increase to the City's operating subsidy is anticipated.

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 approved a letter to the legislatures of Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia requesting additional funds for transportation. The TPB also received a briefing on the Metro Momentum Strategic Plan, as well as two new grant programs instituted by MAP-21, the Enhanced Mobility Program and the New Transportation Alternatives Program.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

The WMATA Board approved bus service adjustments in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. The adjustments were largely cost neutral and will result in increased efficiency. Modifications took effect on December 30.

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)

NVTC discussed the Alternatives Analysis that is being led by NVTC in the Route 7 corridor. The NVTC Board also discussed possible transportation bills which might be proposed at the General Assembly, including indexing the gasoline tax.

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)

No NVTA meeting occurred in December 2012.

Federal: Funding Updates and Grant Notices of Awards

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