



# City of Alexandria

## Transportation Commission

### Regular Meeting

February 6, 2013  
7:00 p.m.  
City Council Workroom

### MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** William Euille, Donna Fossum, John Komoroske, Tim Lovain, Jennifer Mitchell, Josh Sawislak, Louisa Ward, David Kaplan (interim DASH representative)

**Staff Present:** Chris Bever – OMB, Karen Callaham – T&ES, Jeff Farner – P&Z, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Raymond Mui – DASH, Marti Reinfeld - T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Andre Stafford – DASH

The Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

#### 1. **December 5, 2012 and January 9, 2013 Minutes**

Commissioner Mitchell asked if there were any comments regarding the December 5 meeting minutes. There were no comments to the December minutes. For the January minutes, Commissioner Fossum recommended that since there was no quorum at the January meeting as cited in the minutes, there should not have been a motion to adjourn at the end of the meeting. Commissioner Mitchell indicated the motion to adjourn would be removed from the January minutes. There being no further edits, a motion to approve the December and January minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

#### 2. **Funding Update**

T&ES staff, Marti Reinfeld reported:

**City Council:** Passed ordinance to amend Transportation Master Plan on January 12, 2013 to be consistent with Transitway Corridors Feasibility Study recommendations; adopted taxicab fare increases on January 22, 2013; approved proposal to allow City to lease public parking spaces to private vendors for carsharing.

**Commonwealth Transportation Board:** On January 26, 2013, Governor McDonald gave an overview on a proposal to revise transportation funding for the Commonwealth.

**DRPT:** Alexandria submitted capital/operating assistance grant applications for FY2014. These included DASH operating assistance, DASH expansion buses, BRT buses, and local funds being spent on the construction of Route 1 Transitway.

**NVTC:** Discussed the increase in the federal transit benefit; discussed transportation bills proposed in the General Assembly to amend the current process for allocating transportation revenues.

**TPB:** Received a report entitled “What do people think about congestion pricing?”

**WMATA:** Received preliminary information on the FY2014 budget and amounts of subsidy required for regional jurisdictions.

**NVTA:** Discussed legislative issues and VDOT proposal to recommend highest priority traffic relieving projects in Commonwealth

### **3. FY 2014-23 CIP Update**

T&ES staff Sandra Marks introduced Chris Bever of the City’s Budget Management Office. Mr. Bever reported when work on the operating budget development began there was an \$18 million gap between projected expenditures and revenues. Those figures did not include ACPS or transit subsidies. Staff has been working on different options to present to the City Manager to close the gap and present a balanced budget. Several more meetings are scheduled before the proposed budget is presented to Council on February 26, 2013. For the Capital Improvement Program budget, projects were reprioritized with input received from the Transportation Commissioners and T&ES staff which Sandra Marks and Marti Reinfeld elaborated on during Transportation Commission meetings; City Council guidance was adhered to including the 2.2% transportation tax rate on real estate and applied over the 10-year plan. Work sessions and public hearings will be held after the February 26 presentation to Council. The final budget will be adopted in May.

### **4. WMATA Strategic Plan**

T&ES staff Marti Reinfeld reported that WMATA’s draft strategic plan (Momentum) was released on Jan 24, 2013. The plan indicated that the current focus of Metro is in a state of good repair. The Agency is beginning to plan for expansion to keep pace with regional growth. The goals adopted by the WMATA Board are: safety; high quality service; regional mobility and connecting communities; financial stability; and investment in employees and assets. WMATA made a significant effort in garnering stakeholder’s feedback. Stakeholder feedback indicated that Metro is critical to the region’s future; reliability of infrastructure and operations is important; overcrowding is an issue on rail and bus; there is a need to improve and increase customer information; identify predictable and sustainable funding. WMATA also looked at planned regional investments that are not WMATA projects and considered how these investments can be leveraged that are going on around them such as the City’s transitways, and streetcar projects. . WMATA’s planned improvements will increase their annual funding needs from \$1 billion to \$2.5 billion over next 40 years. WMATA is continuing to solicit additional feedback and endorsement from stakeholders before presenting the plan for approval to the Metro Board.

### **5. Beauregard Rezoning Update**

T&ES staff Steve Sindiong and P&Z staff Jeff Farner reported that staff is in the rezoning process for the Beauregard Small Area Plan (SAP). Mr. Farner spoke about transportation and land use coordination issues and putting density at the transit stops. The design guidelines have specific conditions such as introducing more connectivity, block size and perimeters, framework streets (required streets), street hierarchy (which streets have service and loading and which streets don’t) and street cross sections and parking maximums. The rezoning will include two Coordinated Development Districts (CDD’s). CDD #21 includes the contiguous area within the SAP that is located to the west of I-395 including the

Greenway, Garden District, Town Center, Adams, Upland Park and Southern Towers neighborhoods. CDD #22 is located to the east of I-395 and includes the Seminary Overlook neighborhood. Mr. Sindiong reported that two key transportation improvements include the development of the ellipse at the intersection of Seminary Road at Beauregard Street, and the Transitway. The Beauregard Rezoning Advisory Group (BRAG), whose task is to make sure the rezoning is consistent with the SAP, approved a motion confirming that the proposed ellipse is consistent with the Beauregard SAP. Staff has been developing a phasing plan for the required transportation improvements. The Transitway shall be constructed and operational prior to the occupancy of 1.5 million square feet of new development within CDD #21 and/or CDD #22. The developers have agreed to dedicate the necessary right-of-way along Beauregard Street for the Transitway, and provide \$22.5 million (2011 dollars, subject to escalation) of developer contributions toward construction of the Transitway. The ellipse shall be constructed and operational prior to the occupancy of 2.4 million square feet of net new development within CDD #21 and/or CDD#22. The developers have agreed to dedicate the necessary right-of-way along Beauregard Street and Seminary Road for the ellipse, and provide \$27.3 million (2011 dollars, subject to escalation) of developer contributions toward construction of the ellipse. The contribution includes a contingency of \$9 million to cover unforeseen costs, due to the minimal amount of design that has been done at this time. The Beauregard Rezoning Plan should come before Council again in April 2013.

#### **6. Staff Updates**

The Commission received a written staff update on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, and the Route 1 Transitway.

#### **7. Commission Updates**

- Chair Mitchell indicated she attended the last Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Work Group (PYMIG) meeting and reported preliminary findings were received on the environmental results, noise, visual impact, archaeological, and cultural resources. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2013. Commissioner Sawislak is the Commission representative on PYMIG.

#### **9. Other Business**

- None.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:45 pm, seconded, and unanimously approved.