



William D. Euille
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May 29, 2013

The Honorable Sean Connaughton, Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Chair and Members
Commonwealth Transportation Board
1111 East Broad Street, Room 3054
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) Testimony Letter

Dear Secretary Connaughton and Members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board:

In addition to testifying at the Commonwealth Transportation Board's May 29 hearing, this letter presents in writing the City of Alexandria's (the "City") comments on the Draft FY 2014 to FY 2019 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). With support from the Commonwealth, the City is working towards a transportation system that encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation and reduces dependence on the private automobile. We have been building this multi-modal network with a mix of local, Commonwealth, and Federal funds, and the result is a more urban, vibrant and sustainable Alexandria.

We would like to thank the Administration and the General Assembly for passing a new transportation funding package that raises substantial new funds for the Commonwealth as a whole and for the Northern Virginia region. In my testimony last year, I reiterated the importance identifying new and expanded sources of revenue to reinvigorate needed transportation and transit capital programs. With the passing of HB 2313, the Commonwealth has demonstrated that it shares our concern about the state of transportation infrastructure throughout the State.

We understand that the Commonwealth is continuing to work on efforts to modify the statewide transit funding formula, as provided in SB 1140. The majority of transit service in the Commonwealth operates in Northern Virginia, and our region will be particularly impacted by any changes to funding formula. We urge you to continue to emphasize the expansion of funding resources, and to ensure that any modifications to the process do not undermine the reliability of transit service or discourage the growth of new service.

"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"

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The following represent the City's comments on the FY 2014 – FY 2019 SYIP.

- We appreciate the funding provided for several critical City projects, including: Corridor C Transitway, King Street Metro Parking Lot and Bus Loading Area, Eisenhower Avenue Resurfacing, and expansion vehicles and enhancements for DASH and the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway. We also commend the Virginia Department of Transportation for identifying funds for VRE's planned pedestrian tunnel between Alexandria Union Station and the King St-Old Town Metrorail station.
- We appreciate the continued support of local transit service, as well as Metrorail and Metrobus service in the City. The Commonwealth's \$50 million match to the Federal Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) grant is critical to maintain and improve the safety and reliability of the Metrorail system, and we urge the Commonwealth to continue to provide the contribution even if PRIIA funds are not available in the future.
- The City has made significant enhancements to its bicycle and pedestrian network over the last several years, offering residents and commuters additional transportation options. Federal and state funding have been critical to the success of these projects. We request that Transportation Alternatives funding continue to be prioritized for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The Transportation Alternatives fund is a relatively small source which supports programs that move many people at a low cost per trip.
- We appreciate the assistance the Commonwealth has provided in improving vehicular access to the Mark Center BRAC-133 site, including the programming of \$60.2 million to construct an HOV off ramp at I-395 and Seminary Road, and the construction of short and mid-term improvements at the site. Per the new federal transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), which limits the establishment of new toll lanes, the City will not support the conversion of existing HOV lanes on I-395 into HOT lanes within the City.
- The City is currently conducting an Environmental Impact Statement for the Potomac Yard Metrorail station. If a build alternative is selected, which would be consistent with adopted City plans, the station will represent the largest transit investment in the City over the next decade. In addition to local funding already identified in the City's Capital Improvement Program, we hope to see some State funding for the planned station in this or a future SYIP.
- The City thanks VDOT for its support of the HOV/Transit Ramp at I-395 and Seminary Road and has requested that any funds over the recent contract award for said ramp be utilized for unfunded interstate requests.

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- The City requests that the Commonwealth consider funding with Seminary HOV excess funds for the widening of the I-395 Bridge over Sanger Avenue. This would enable the City to build dedicated transit lanes along Sanger Avenue, expediting the implementation of the planned Corridor C Transitway. Further, the City has requested that the SB I-395 general purpose lanes “pinch-points” from Seminary Road to Duke Street be corrected.
- In addition, the City requests that about \$1 million of the surplus Seminary HOV ramp funds be allocated to resolving a fire suppression issue on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, as the current dry pipe system reduces response times, which increases risk to the bridge and its users.
- The SYIP includes urban funds in FY 2017, FY 2018, and FY 2019 for the Corridor C Transitway. Because design and construction of this project is anticipated to begin in FY 2016, we request that these funds be moved to FY 2017 to allow us to finish construction of the project within the planned timeframe.
- We commend the CTB’s decision to continue providing track-access lease fees for VRE.
- We request the following modifications to the draft FY 2014 – FY2019 SYIP:
 - Bikeshare (UPC#10374) funding amounts do not reflect our most recent regional discussions. The correct amounts are \$437,000 in FY 2014 and \$83,639 in FY 2015.
 - The SYIP should be modified to reflect the \$240,000 the City was allocated in FY 2012 to perform Preliminary Engineering for Exclusive Transitways (UPC#79794).

We want to thank you for your time, efforts and dedication in seeking solutions to the Commonwealth’s many complex transportation issues in these challenging times.

Sincerely,



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cc: The Honorable Members of City Council
Rashad M. Young, City Manager
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Richard J. Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
Joel Marcuson, P.E., Deputy Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
Antonio Baxter, Chief, Strategic Management Services, Transportation &
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