

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 5, 2014
TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: T&ES STAFF
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 2 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various ongoing projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. FUNDING UPDATE

VDOT is proceeding with a study to rate transportation projects, as required by HB599. The results of this study will be used to inform NVTA 70% funding decisions for highway projects. Under HB2313, transit capacity projects do not need to be rated. Following several months of outreach to jurisdictions and stakeholders, VDOT presented its final performance measures in late January and issued a call for projects in February. At its February 20 meeting, NVTA decided to submit all highway projects that were generated as part of its FY 2014 – FY 2016 call for projects for the NVTA 70% funds. Alexandria had only submitted one highway project to NVTA (\$500,000 for Real Time Traffic Adaptive Control System), which was forwarded to VDOT along with 31 other highway projects. VDOT expects to have a final set of projects recommended for evaluation in March and a final report in fall 2014.

B. NVTA 70% FUNDS

On December 12, 2013, NVTA released a call for projects for 70% funds for FY 2014 – FY 2016¹. The City transmitted the following set of projects to the NVTA for 70% funding as well as the City's 10-year plan for the 70% funds.

FY 2014 - FY 2016 Project Submission for NVTA 70% Funds

	FY 2015	FY 2016
▪ Potomac Yard Metrorail Station	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
▪ Transit Corridor 'B' - Duke Street	\$190,000	\$0
▪ Transit Corridor 'C' - Beauregard	\$0	\$2,400,000
▪ Real Time Traffic Adaptive Control	\$500,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,190,000	\$3,400,000

The NVTA received approximately \$769 million in FY 2014 – FY 2016 requests (19 transit

¹ The call was only for remaining FY 2014 funds and does not affect projects that were previously approved for FY 2014 funds.

projects totaling \$346 million; 32 highway projects totaling \$421). Based on current revenue estimates, there is only \$403 million available in pay-go funds for FY 2014 – FY 2016. NVTa has not yet begun the process of evaluating the projects to determine which requests will be included in the final FY 2014 – FY 2016 plan.

C. POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION

The Potomac Yard Metrorail Station project is an infill Metrorail station located between the National Airport and Braddock Road Metrorail stations on the Blue and Yellow lines in the vicinity of the Potomac Yard Development.

The project team is working on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which analyzes the socioeconomic, environmental, and transportation impacts of a no build and three build alternatives. The DEIS will address key environmental considerations, including air quality and climate change, transportation and land use, visual resources, parklands, historic and cultural resources, noise, vibration, wetlands and habitats, and temporary construction impacts.

As discussed previously, the project team has been investigating several options to mitigate impacts identified during the DEIS analysis. One of these options involves moving the CSXT tracks to the west, which would potentially allow Alternative B to be removed from NPS-owned land and the 1999 scenic easement. City staff met with representatives of CSXT on November 13, 2013. The City expects to hear from CSXT by early spring whether CSXT is interested in proceeding further.

While the City awaits a reply from CSXT, staff is revisiting the financial analysis. Staff is also studying other mitigation strategies, such as additional landscaping to screen views of the station from the George Washington Memorial Parkway and a potential design speed modification that would allow the track for Alternative B to be moved out of NPS-owned land. Pending discussions with CSXT and the outcome of the financial analysis currently underway, staff expects to resume work on the DEIS in April and incorporate these mitigation options into the document. Staff anticipates release of the document for public review and comment in Fall 2014.

City Council held a work session on December 10, 2013 and the Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group (PYMIG) met on January 6, 2014 to discuss the progress of the DEIS. Based on feedback received at these meetings, City staff has prepared a projected schedule to complete the EIS and for the design-build process. These schedules will be presented to City Council at their March 11, 2014 meeting (Attachments 1 and 2).

For more information on the project, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/potomacyard.

D. CRYSTAL CITY/POTOMAC YARD (ROUTE 1) TRANSITWAY

During the first round of TIGER grants, the City received \$8.5 million to design and construct the Route 1 Transitway between Monroe Avenue and East Glebe Road. The City compiled additional grant funding and \$5.2 million in local funding to design/construct various elements of the Transitway project. The total cost of the Transitway including vehicles is approximately \$20 million.

Transitway construction began in July 2012. Runningway construction is substantially complete. Pre-construction meetings for the landscaping and stations were held in January. Excavation for the landscaping is underway, with planting due to start in early March, depending on weather. Installation of the concrete platforms for the stations is also due to start in March. The project will be complete in Summer 2014.

The branded Metroway service will start with the opening of the Transitway, with buses running every 12 minutes between the Braddock Road Metrorail Station and Pentagon City. The service will operate in mixed traffic through Arlington County until early 2015, when their portion of the transitway is scheduled to open.

For more information on the Route 1 Transitway project please see visit:
<http://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=58644>