

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2014

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: SANDRA MARKS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 4 – CAPITAL BIKESHARE EXPANSION

ISSUE: Provide an update to the Transportation Commission on Capital Bikeshare expansion.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the following for information.

BACKGROUND:

Alexandria’s bikesharing program, Capital Bikeshare, is a joint program currently comprised of the District of Columbia, Arlington County, the City of Alexandria and Montgomery County. The program was launched by Arlington County and the District of Columbia in September 2010 with 110 stations, and has grown to 347 stations. Alexandria joined the regional program in September 2012, with eight stations in Old Town, and added 8 stations in Del Ray and Carlyle in August 2014, for a total of 16 stations. Alta Bicycle Share is the contractor hired by all the participating jurisdictions to operate this regional system.

The Capital Bikeshare program is consistent with the Council Strategic Plan, and directly supports Goal Three, which calls for a... “multimodal transportation network that supports sustainable land use and provide internal mobility and regional connectivity for Alexandrians.” The Capital Bikeshare program is also consistent with the 2008 Transportation Master Plan, with a major objective to... “increase the number of bicycle-transit trips.”

Capital Bikeshare has been very popular with residents and visitors to Alexandria, with over 55,000 trips, over 7,800 members. Alexandria trips have steadily increased, with over a 100 percent increase in trips when comparing September 2013 to September 2014. The average duration of trip in Alexandria is 23 minutes, and the King Street Metrorail station is the busiest Capital Bikeshare station in Alexandria. Revenues and user fees covered 70 percent of operating costs in the second year of the program, exceeding initial revenue goals of 30 percent. Figure 1 below provides a summary of Capital Bikeshare information for Alexandria.

Figure 1: Capital Bikeshare in Alexandria Sept 1, 2012 - Sept 30, 2014

Fleet	
Stations	16
Bikes	128
Docks	250
% of regional fleet	4.44%
Members	
Annual, monthly and daily key	1,874
1-day members	5,658
3 day members	364
Trips	
Trips, starting in Alexandria	51,534
Miles, starting in Alexandria	131,739
Average trip length (miles)	2.56
Average trip duration (min)	23.18
C02 saved, trips starting in Alexandria (pounds)	89,582
Calories burned, trips starting in Alexandria	5,664,756
Reported crashes	0
Unrecovered thefts	0

According to the 2013 member survey, over half of Capital Bikeshare members used bikeshare to access transit stops. Members also reported using bikeshare equally for both work and non-work trips, thereby reducing the number vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in person automobiles with 11 percent reporting they reduced annual miles driven by at least 1,000 miles. Half of the survey respondents reported driving a car less often, and 60 percent said they use a taxi less often now that they have joined Capital Bikeshare. Capital Bikeshare members reduce about 2.1 million commute driving miles annually, reducing traffic during the peak commuting periods. It is estimated that annual commute VMT are reduced by 265 miles per member.

DISCUSSION:

In 2015, grant funding and developer contributions have allowed for the installation of 16 new bike share stations, bringing the total number of Capital Bikeshare system in Alexandria to 32. Proposed station locations are selected based on locations suggested by the public, connectivity to transit, and proximity to mixed-use activity centers. The draft locations are shown in Attachment 1. It is anticipated that the stations will be installed in late 2015.