



Alexandria Transportation Commission
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Mayor William D. Euille and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

September 24, 2015

Re: Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) – Endorsement of Work Group Recommendations

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council:

At its September 16, 2015 meeting, the Transportation Commission held a public hearing on recommendations of the OTAPS work group. The Transportation Commission endorses the recommendations of the work group with the exception of its position on initiating the process for amending or changing residential permit parking. This letter summarizes parking management tools the Commission believes should be priorities for implementation.

The work group recommended that additional funding for enforcement will allow the City to better manage parking in the study area. The Commission heartily endorses the recommendation to apply additional funding toward modernizing citation and enforcement equipment, hiring additional parking enforcement officers, and reinstating the adjudication process, and notes that improvements in parking enforcement may be revenue positive.

A parking management goal of the work group was to encourage long-term visitors to use transit or park in off-street garages and surface lots. The Commission endorses the recommendation to improve wayfinding signs and technology to help visitors locate City garages more easily. In addition, the Commission endorses the workgroup's recommendation to optimize DASH routes, which includes implementation of an Old Town Circulator, a combination and rebranding of routes AT2 and AT5 between the King Street-Old Town and Braddock Road Metrorail stations. The circulator was included in the DASH Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA), adopted in 2014.

Another parking management goal of the work group was the preservation of parking on residential blocks for residents and their guests. In support of this goal, the Commission endorses

the work group's recommendation to implement a pilot program for adding a pay-by-phone payment requirement for residential blocks in the study area. Pricing on-street parking on residential blocks near King Street would disincentivize visitor parking in residential areas, thereby opening up more spaces for use by residents and their guests. This requirement would not apply to vehicles with resident or guest parking permits in a given block's parking district. This recommendation must be coupled with recommendations to improve parking wayfinding and adjust pricing of parking at City-owned garages to ensure that visitors are easily able to find convenient parking options in the commercial district. The Commission strongly encourages City staff to work with residents to initiate a pilot program on several block faces to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach.

The Transportation Commission disagrees with the OTAPS work group position not to change the process for amending or creating residential permit parking districts. The Commission believes that reforming the current process to change on-street parking regulations may expedite improvements in the study area and would allow for more consistent parking regulations block-to-block that would be less confusing to residents and visitors alike. Currently, changes to on-street parking regulations require a petition from a majority of residents on a block face to initiate the process. The Commission believes that the addition of a staff-initiated process would streamline necessary adjustments to on-street parking regulations. For example, this would allow staff to initiate a logical change in parking restrictions in response to a resident-requested change on an adjacent block (e.g., lengthening 2-hour parking restrictions from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.). In addition, it would provide a simpler path for initiating restrictions on blocks that include mixed uses such as single-family residential, multifamily residential, commercial, and City-owned properties. A staff-initiated process would continue to allow residents to initiate a change and preserve the opportunities for public review and comment that currently exist.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the efforts of the OTAPS work group, as well as the consideration of Commission's endorsements by Council.

Sincerely,



Nathan M. Macek

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Alexandria Traffic & Parking Board
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Carrie Sanders, Acting Deputy Director, T&ES