



Alexandria Transportation Commission
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Alexandria, VA 22314

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

October 22, 2015

Re: FY 2017-2026 Budget Guidance

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council:

At its October 21, 2015 meeting, the Transportation Commission approved the following guidance to staff for preparation of the FY 2017 budget for inclusion in the City Manager's FY 2017 budget:

- Preserve the 2.2 cent transportation reservation in order to comply with maintenance-of-effort requirements, maintain flexibility, and to offset previous loss of state urban funds.
- Commit adequate operating funds to provide the project management, procurement, management and of staff resources necessary to implement new capital projects and programs.
- Continue to capitalize staff positions that are directly related to capital project implementation, as allowable, in order to utilize capital funds and reduce impacts on the operating budget.
- Maintain funding for highest priorities as determined by the Transportation Commission in the Transportation Improvement Program.
- Allocate Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) 70% funds for high priority major capital investments with regional impacts, with an emphasis on leveraging non-city funds and/or accelerating project delivery.
- Utilize funding sources with least restrictions on project eligibility (i.e. CMAQ, RSTP, and NVTA 30% funds) for non-motorized projects, project development, ADA improvements, maintenance and operations.
- Pursue discretionary grant funding for transportation projects, including state capital assistance and federal New Starts, Small Starts, and TIGER grants.
- Ensure adequate funding for the Alexandria Police Department for capital investment and operating costs of enforcement—including parking violations, High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane violations on Route 1 and Washington Street, speeding, and red light

- running—to help shape driver behavior and promote safety.
- Ensure that city transportation funding levels are maintained or increased above the maintenance-of-effort requirements of HB2313, to provide new transportation capacity and enhanced transportation services and programs while also maintaining existing assets in a state of good repair.
 - Recognizing that regional transportation, including WMATA transit service is a priority that should not fall entirely on the transportation budget but rather a shared cost, the Council should explore opportunities to help fund the regional transit needs beyond the City's transportation resources.

This guidance prioritizes the preservation of the 2.2 cent transportation reservation and identification of additional funding for the City's contribution to WMATA as the highest priorities. The diversion of transportation reservation funds to support WMATA diminishes resources for local transportation priorities, at a time when recently adopted plans call for additional transportation investments throughout the City.

This guidance also reflects the necessary progress towards timely completion of capital projects to enable prompt payment from state and regional funding partners. The Transportation Commission encourages Council to allocate the resources necessary to ensure that these projects can be implemented on schedule and within budget, and to ensure that the City does not risk losing these funds.

We commend the Council on their ongoing commitment to funding multi-modal, sustainable transportation options in the City. We appreciate your consideration of the Commission's guidance on the proposed FY 2017 budget. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Nathan M. Macek
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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