



Alexandria Transportation Commission  
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Alexandria, VA 22314

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[www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov)

Honorable Mayor Allison Silberberg and Members of City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

November 17, 2016

Re: FY 2018-2027 Budget Guidance

Dear Mayor Silberberg and Members of City Council:

At its November 16, 2016 meeting, the Transportation Commission approved the following guidance, similar to guidance provided as part of the FY 2017 budget, to staff for preparation of the FY 2018 budget for inclusion in the City Manager's FY 2018 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.

A memorandum from the City Manager dated September 14, 2016 asked that the Commission respond to the following two questions:

1. What are the highest priority services and initiatives within your policy area that you feel should be added or increased in the FY 2018 budget?
2. If your area of the budget is required to identify potential reductions for FY 2018, what are the lowest priority services and initiatives that should be considered?

The Commission's highest priority is the preservation of the 2.2 cent transportation reservation to expand multi-modal transportation infrastructure and transit options to improve mobility and reduce congestion. In addition, the Commission prioritizes the City's Complete Streets program that is essential in providing mobility options and improving pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular safety. The Commission also prioritizes a state of good repair for the City's transportation system.

Areas of the budget that are of a lower priority, that could potentially be reduced in FY18 include bridge repairs, traffic control upgrades, signage and wayfinding. While these services are still very important to the City's transportation system, a reduction or delay in implementation could be applied if necessary, however it is still not desirable.

The Commission strongly encourages Council identify additional funding for the City's contribution to WMATA. 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.

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 2018 budget. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



J.J. King III  
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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