



Joint Transportation Commission and Environmental Policy Commission Meeting

October 20, 2021

**6:30 PM Transportation Commission Meeting
7:00 PM Joint Work Session
Virtual Meeting**

AGENDA

1. Electronic Meeting Notice (see next page)
2. Public Comment (Not to exceed 10 min)
3. Approval of Minutes
 - A. September 29, 2021 Transportation Commission Meeting
4. **Action Item: FY 2023 Budget Priorities**
5. **Action Item: Consideration of a Letter of Support for NVTa 70% Projects**
6. **Adjourn Transportation Commission Meeting**
7. **Transportation Commission – Environmental Policy Commission Joint Work Session**
 - A. Welcome and Purpose/Goals
 - B. Intro to Climate Task Force and ECCAP; relevant current City policies (EAP 2040, AMP)
 - C. Nexus between Transportation and Climate Change, Typical Strategies for Metro area on-road transportation, Baseline Alexandria transportation sustainability and climate metrics
 - D. Recommended Inputs into CAP Process, where TC and EPC can provide value
 - E. CAP process
 - F. Summary observations on the work session, and opportunities for future discussion
 - G. Adjournment of Joint Meeting

Public hearing items are so noted on the agenda. The Commission may receive public comments on other agenda items at its discretion. When there is no public hearing, the Commission encourages written comments on agenda items be sent to transportationcommission@alexandriava.gov in advance of or after the meeting.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2021



1. Electronic Meeting Notice

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the October 20, 2021 meeting of the Transportation Commission is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) and the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 to undertake essential business. All of the members of the public body and staff are participating from remote locations through a Zoom Webinar. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person in the City Council Workroom at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event. The meeting can be accessed by the public through:

The following Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94311103532>

Webinar ID: 943 1110 3532

Passcode: 068073

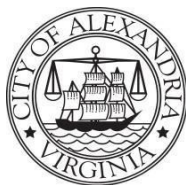
Or join by phone:

301 715 8592

Passcode: 068073

Public comment will be received at the meeting. There will be a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting and written testimony can be provided until 3PM on 10/20/21 to Megan.Oleynik@alexandriava.gov

The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of ADA. An individual with a disability who wishes to request an accommodation may contact the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4086 or TTY/TTD 703-838-5056.



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission and Alexandria Mobility Plan Advisory Committee

Joint Meeting

September 29, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Melissa McMahon, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner Bill Pugh, Commissioner Lawrence Chambers, Commissioner Oscar Gonzalez.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann - Transportation Planning Division Chief, Jennifer Slesinger - Transportation Planning Division, Megan Oleynik - Transportation Planning Division, Vicki Caudullo – Mobility Services, Ryan Knight – Traffic Engineering Division, Hillary Orr – Deputy Direct of Transportation and Environmental Services, Jose Ayala – Neighborhood Planning, Carrie Beach – Neighborhood Planning Division Chief, Sarah Taylor – Legislative Director

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/TransportationCommission>

Chair McMahon called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. Electronic Meeting Notice

2. Public Comment Period

- James Durham spoke to ask the Commission to include two items in the budget inputs to the City Manager. The first being to fund a Complete Streets staff of at least 3 to 5 people and the second being to fully fund the remaining portions of the 2022 Alexandria Transit Vision Plan to include all day, frequent on the Duke Street Corridor.
- Al Clark, a member of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), spoke to ask that the 2022 legislative package include additional allowance for the City to install red light cameras and speed cameras for automated traffic enforcement.

Motion to close the public comment period: Commissioner Chambers

Second: Commissioner Kane

Motion carries unanimously.

3. Meeting Minutes

AMPAC Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2021

Motion to accept the minutes: Commissioner

Gonzalez

Second: Commissioner Pugh
Motion carries unanimously.

Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2021

Motion to accept the minutes: Commissioner Gonzalez

Second: Commissioner Pugh
Motion carries unanimously.

4. ACTION ITEM: Alexandria Mobility Plan

ISSUE: Consideration of endorsement of the Alexandria Mobility Plan to replace the current Transportation section of the City’s Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Alexandria Mobility Plan and Transportation Commission endorse the Alexandria Mobility Plan.

DISCUSSION: Jennifer Slesinger, Regional Planner, presented on the Alexandria Mobility Plan and highlighted changes since the plan was last brought to the board.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- James Durham expressed that he supports the AMP and feels it is a good foundational document but asks that the Commission endorse the importance of frequent, reliable, all-day transit service and safer streets particularly for those walking and biking.
- Bob Hartt, a member of the Seminary Hill Civic Association, expressed that he supports the document and encourages its adoption. He expressed that it seeks to establish a more balanced transportation system that promotes greater equity for people who have been underserved and promotes choices that lead to a healthier lifestyle. He expressed support for the implementation of the New Dash Network for those with limited mobility or who do not drive. He stressed the importance of implementation of the Vision Zero. He supports building out a safer pedestrian and cycling network and reducing cut-through traffic.
- Ken Notis expressed support for the plan and the vision of a sustainable, multimodal future that it presents. He stated that it was important to fund the Complete Streets staff in order to be able to implement the plan effectively.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane suggested that the pedestrian and bicycle network maps be updated with Small Area Plan updates or on a regular basis (annually). Overall he supports the plan and believes it will make Alexandria an easier place for travel by all modes.

Commissioner Gonzalez expressed that he thought there was a conflict between the strategy to make parking easier to find with some of the other goals aimed at reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips. He expressed that he would like the endorsement of the AMP to include support for funding for additional Complete Streets staffing.

Commissioner Pugh stated that he would be abstaining from the vote because of his work as a Policy Fellow with the Coalition for Smarter Growth.

Commissioners Chambers expressed support and that the plan successfully balances different travel options. He felt that some of the potentially conflicting recommendations would further support that balance.

Chair McMahon commended the public process that went into the plan. She stated that she felt some elements could have been stronger such as the commitment to updating pedestrian and bicycle maps regularly, the stated connections between Smart Mobility and safety, and the focus on Capital Bikeshare. She felt like some of the parking and curbside strategies were conflicting like ensuring parking is available and balancing parking with other curbside uses. Overall, she felt like the plan was a successful update could anticipate and accommodate new technology and evolving transportation trends. She commended the equity lens of the plan.

Chair McMahon brought up the recommendation of including the following additional action in Transit Chapter Strategy 2, “Explore connecting Alexandria’s transitways with high-capacity transit corridors in Fairfax to help create a more reliable and efficient regional bus network.

The Commission expressed support for the proposed additional strategy but also felt it should not preclude connections with other regional jurisdictions. Chair McMahon suggested that a map of the transitways be included and show a potential, non-specific connection of the Route 1 Metroway south into Fairfax County.

Motion to close the public hearing: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Chambers

Motion carries unanimously.

Transportation Commission Motion to endorse the Alexandria Mobility Plan with recommended action in Transit Chapter Strategy 2 and with support for additional Complete Streets funding: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Gonzalez

Motion carries 4-0, with Commissioner Pugh abstaining.

AMPAC Motion to endorse the Alexandria Mobility Plan with recommended action in Transit Chapter Strategy 2: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Gonzalez

Motion carries 4-0, with Commissioner Pugh abstaining.

5. ACTION ITEM: Arlandria Chirilagua Small Area Plan Update

ISSUE: Transportation Commission consideration of the Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area Plan draft transportation recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive this update and endorse the Draft Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area Plan transportation recommendations as consistent with the City’s Transportation Master Plan, Complete Streets Design Guidelines, Transit Vision Plan, and Environmental Action Plan policies.

DISCUSSION: Jose Ayala, Principal Planner in Neighborhood Planning, and Megan Oleynik, Long Range Planner in Transportation Planning, presented on the Arlandria Chirilagua Small Area Plan update with a focus on the community process and transportation recommendations.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Gonzalez asked that the plan more explicitly call out that transportation recommendations be consistent with the Vision Zero Action Plan.

Commissioner Kane wanted the improvements of the plan to be less dependent on development and wanted to stress some of the goals that may not be able to be accomplished or may take many years to accomplish if development does not move forward. He asked that the plan highlight the bridges into Arlington at W. Glebe

Road and Mt. Vernon Avenue as location for major safety improvements.

Commissioner Chambers commended public outreach efforts and asked about the feedback from the community. Staff noted the focus of the neighborhood on affordable housing options.

Commissioner McMahon asked about what funding had been identified for improvements and what still needed to be funded. Staff indicated that the Mt. Vernon Avenue North Project had funding for safety improvements.

Commissioner Pugh commended the recommendation on providing additional bicycle parking.

Motion to endorse the Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area Plan with recommendations from discussion:

Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Chambers

Motion carries unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEM: Dockless Mobility Program

ISSUE: Staff update on proposed changes to the Dockless Mobility Program.
Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive this update and endorse the proposed changes to Dockless Mobility Program

DISCUSSION: Vicki Caudullo, Dockless Mobility Program Manager, provided an update on the status of the Dockless Mobility Program, focusing on the final recommendations of the Ad Hoc Scooter Task Force and changes since an update the program was brought to the Commission in June 2021.

Discussion

Commissioner McMahon asked about the lock-to requirement moving forward in DC and how that might impact Alexandria. She asked about how staff would further encourage scooters to not be parked on sidewalks. Staff indicated that at this time Alexandria will not have a lock-to requirement and that staff are working with vendors on additional options for providing complaints.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked about where scooter corrals would be provided if not in parking spaces. Staff indicated they could be provided at corners where there is no parking for daylighting. He said that he felt that a large percentage of scooter riders were riding for fun rather than for transportation purposes. He expressed that he felt scooter riding was at odds with Vision Zero goals.

Commissioner Kane expressed concerns about the differences in scooter laws and rules in neighboring jurisdictions and expressed that it would be good for there to be additional regional coordination and communications on rules. He also expressed concerns about locked scooters being more difficult to move if they are incorrectly parked.

Commissioner Chambers expressed that the thought that scooters were a beneficial transportation option. He expressed concerns about safety issues and scooter riders not wearing helmets.

Motion to endorse the Ad Hoc Tasks Force recommendations to the Dockless Mobility Program with an emphasis on continuing to work with vendors to understand how technology could be used to better manage sidewalk parking: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Chambers
Motion carries 4-0, with Commissioner Gonzalez
abstaining.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: City Budget Priorities and State Legislative Package

ISSUE: The City Manager has requested Boards and Commissions provide input in advance of the development of the FY23 City Budget. The City is also requesting legislative priorities from Boards and Commissions.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide input on budget and legislative priorities.

DISCUSSION: Sarah Taylor gave an overview of the legislative priorities from last year and the current legislative trends and priorities and the process for this year. Jennifer Slesinger gave an overview of past budget priorities and asked for additional input on budget priorities for the City Manager.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane asked if there were opportunities to remove or reconsider the limitations on how many red-light cameras a jurisdiction can have based on population and if there is a way to requesting funding from the state on red-light and speed cameras.

Chair McMahan highlighted that automated traffic enforcement tools can reduce bias in enforcement, and that the legislature should consider them for equity reasons.

Commissioners Kane and McMahan expressed it could be valuable for jurisdictions to be allocated a certain amount of money automatically for small safety-related projects that could help reach Vision Zero goals.

Commissioner McMahan highlighted that the funding priorities should reflect some of the requests from the community heard at the meeting, such as Complete Streets Program staffing and frequent, all-day transit.

Commissioner Kane requested that there be contingency funding available to help with repairs of trails and trail bridges.

8. ACTION ITEM: Transit Ridership Incentive Program

ISSUE: Consideration of submittal of a letter of support to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for the City's application for Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) funding to support free fares for DASH in FY 2022 through FY 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission submit the proposed letter of support to DRPT for Alexandria's TRIP application for free fares on DASH.

DISCUSSION: Jennifer Slesinger presented on the City's application for TRIP funding to support DASH free fares through FY 2025.

Commission Discussion

No commissioner discussion.

Motion to submit a letter of support for the City's TRIP application: Commissioner Gonzalez

Second: Commissioner Chambers
Motion carries unanimously.

9. ACTION ITEM: Electronic Meeting Policy

ISSUE: Consideration of policy for electronic (virtual) and hybrid in-person/electronic meetings for Transportation Commission

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission approve the proposed electronic meeting policy.

DISCUSSION: Megan Oleynik, Long Range Planner, presented on the current allowances for virtual and hybrid-meetings and the proposed electronic meeting policy.

Commission Discussion

Chair McMahon highlighted that the proposed policy is the policy being adopted by all Boards and Commissions in the city.

Motion to adopt an Electronic Meeting Policy: Oscar Gonzalez

Second: Lawrence Chambers

Motion carries unanimously.

10. Commissioner updates

Commissioner Kane met with the Traffic and Parking Board on September 27, 2021, and they heard updates on the Dockless Mobility Program and Bikeshare Program. They heard an update on the closure of the 100 block of King Street and recommended adoption of a permanent parklet program.

11. Items for Consent

A. New Dash Network and Fare Free

Commissioner Pugh asked if the Commission could receive updates on the impacts of the fare free DASH.

12. Other Business

- A. The October meeting will start at 6:30 pm with a Transportation Commission meeting and then a joint Transportation Commission and Environmental Policy Commission workshop will begin at 7:00 pm.
- B. The FY2021 Transportation Commission Annual Report is posted on the Commission website

Adjournment

At 10:53 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2021
TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 - FY 2023 CITY BUDGET LETTER

ISSUE: Consideration of submission of a letter to the City Manager pertaining to the Commission's budget priorities for FY 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission endorse the draft letter to the City Manager.

BACKGROUND: At the September 29, 2021 Transportation Commission meeting, Jennifer Slesinger, Regional Planner with the Transportation Planning Division of Transportation and Environmental Services introduced a letter from the City Manager (Attachment 1) asking for Board and Commission input on the FY 2023 budget. The City Manager's letter highlights some of the challenges for the upcoming fiscal year which include (1) the job market driving pay competitiveness issues (2) the planned update to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and (3) a projected increase in debt service. As with FY 2022, the City Manager wants to continue to focus the budget on **smart, equitable, and green** programs, as well as attracting and retaining employees.

DISCUSSION: Members of the Commission shared their feedback for priorities at the meeting in September and via email to staff. Top priorities included:

- Funding Vision Zero and the Complete Streets program, particularly additional staffing needed for those programs
- Fully funding all-day, frequent transit on the Duke Street Corridor
- Creating a contingency fund for trail maintenance
- Funding to implement the transportation recommendations of the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan.

A draft letter reflecting Commission feedback is provided as Attachment 2.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – City Manager's Budget Letter

Attachment 2 – Draft Transportation Commission Budget Priorities Letter



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
301 King St., Suite 3500
Alexandria, VA 22314

MARK B. JINKS
City Manager

703.746.4300
Fax:
703.838.6343

August 31, 2021

Dear City Board, Committee, and Commission Chairs,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your leadership of one of our City boards, committees and commissions. Your commitment helps represent the voices of our community throughout the budget process. Your expertise, knowledge and interest identify areas for the City to continue to grow as we strive to meet the expectations of the residents we serve.

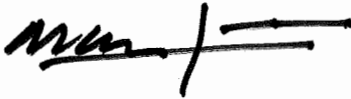
The FY 2022 budget and CIP adopted in May funded items that would assist Alexandria in becoming a **smart, equitable** and **green** City. These three pillars represent important and emerging issues identified by City Council, many of the boards, committees and commissions, and departments. Examples of the FY 2022 budget's investments in these key areas include establishing an independent community policing review board, early childhood education expansion, stormwater management investments, and municipal fiber. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding plan adopted by City Council in July included \$29.8 million in funding to help businesses thrive, support residents disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and to make long-term investments in the City's future.

FY 2023 looks to be a challenging fiscal year as (1) an increasingly tight job market is creating pay competitiveness issues, (2) a significant update to the 10-year Capital Improvement Program is planned including a detailed review and updated of cost estimates, timing of projects, and city and school facility needs and priorities, and (3) a projected increase in debt service due to recent and planned investments in School and City projects.

I would appreciate input on the priorities of your board, committee, or commission to help inform my budget priorities and decision making. Specifically, it would be helpful to know the policy and programmatic areas under your respective purview that are (1) the highest priorities and (2) areas where additional resources (if available) should be applied. As was the case in FY 2022, beyond the debt service pressure, I see ongoing budget focus on making further **smart, equitable**, and **green** program progress in FY 2023, as well as focusing on improving the City's competitive position in attracting and retaining employees. Your feedback will assist City staff in developing budget proposals that support the priorities of our community at large.

Please provide feedback to me (mark.jinks@alexandriava.gov), coordinated through your staff liaison, by **Friday, November 5, 2021**. There will be additional opportunities to provide input in the budget process through the department for which you provide advice and counsel and at the budget public hearing in March. Thank you in advance for thoughts on your board, committee, or commission's priorities as the City begins the development of the FY 2023 budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark B. Jinks', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mark B. Jinks
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
Morgan Rott, Director, Office of Management & Budget
Department Heads
Staff Liaisons to Boards, Committees and Commissions



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

City Manager Mark Jinks

301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

October 20, 2021

Re: FY 2023 Budget Priorities

Dear City Manager:

At its September meeting, the Transportation Commission received an update from staff on the FY 2023 budget process. The Commission discussed the City Manager's letter to Boards and Commissions requesting feedback on priority budget options that will help the City further **smart, equitable, and green** programs in FY 2023 while maintaining and attracting employees.

The Transportation Commission recognizes the challenges of this fiscal year that the City Manager has highlighted and supports the advancement of these priorities. Transportation funding will be critical to supporting these priority areas.

The Transportation Commission has identified three key areas that are critical to supporting these goals: bicycle and pedestrian programs, the Alexandria Transit Vision plan implementation, and supporting the transportation recommendations of the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan.

First, several programs support pedestrian and bicycle travel in Alexandria that the Transportation Commission believes should be budget priorities. With changing travel patterns during the pandemic, more people are walking and biking, and cars are traveling faster, creating potentially dangerous situations. Communities of color and lower-income communities typically have much higher rates of pedestrian crashes. The Transportation Commission recommends the budget include staffing for a minimum of three Complete Streets planners to implement the Bicycle and Pedestrian chapters of the Alexandria Mobility Plan (AMP) and support the Vision Zero Action Plan and not lose ground against the Vision Zero goal of eliminating serious and fatal crashes in Alexandria by 2028 with an increased focus on addressing equity areas and high crash locations as recommended in the AMP. Prioritizing funding for Complete Streets staffing is consistent with the City Manager's goal of maintaining and attracting employees.

Additionally, increased flooding and severe weather events in Alexandria have taken a toll on several bridges and trails that serve bicycles and pedestrians in Alexandria. These trails have been closed while the City designs and implements repairs. This causes disruptions in travel patterns for pedestrians and cyclists and makes it more difficult for Alexandrians to choose non-vehicular travel options that can help reduce greenhouse gases and decrease congestion on City streets. Therefore, the Transportation Commission recommends creating a contingency fund for trail maintenance that would be available as repairs are needed.

Second, the Transportation Commission believes that DASH bus service is critical to ensuring the most vulnerable will have access to jobs and essential services and to reducing greenhouse gases and lessening the City's climate impacts. The Alexandria Transit Vision Plan laid out a framework network to expand access to low-income and minority populations. Fully funding the proposed network will improve access for most Alexandria residents and make DASH service more efficient. This should include providing frequent, all-day service on the Duke Street corridor.

Finally, the Transportation Commission recommends funding the transportation recommendations of the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan. This could include increasing access to electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging, equity programs, or funding to achieve mode shift and sustainability strategies outlined in the Alexandria Mobility Plan.

Thank you for considering these two priority areas to help the City advance its strategic goals.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager Mark Jinks
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Chief of Transportation Planning Division, T&ES
Megan Oleynik, Urban Planner, T&ES

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2021

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: CHRISTOPHER ZIEMANN, DIVISION CHIEF, TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5 – CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NVTA 70% PROJECTS

ISSUE: Endorsement of grant applications to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for transportation projects eligible under the 70% Discretionary Grant (FY 2026-27)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission review and endorse staff's recommended projects for the NVTA 70% Discretionary Grant and the VDOT TA and Revenue Sharing programs.

BACKGROUND: HB2313 (2013) established a funding stream for transportation in Northern Virginia enabling the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to address regional transportation challenges. HB2313 separates these funds into "70% Regional Revenues," which are allocated by the Authority to regional transportation projects; and "30% Local Distribution Revenues," which are distributed to localities for locally determined transportation projects and priorities.

The City initially intended to apply for funds to expand the Route 1 Metroway from E. Glebe Road to Evans Lane. The Transportation Commission approved this endorsement at its June 16, 2021 meeting.

In further discussions with NVTA, it became clear that the Alexandria portion of the Metroway is no longer in the regional plan, TransAction, and therefore it was ineligible for this round of NVTA funds. Alexandria staff are working with NVTA to ensure that the Alexandria portion of the Metroway extension is included in the next update of TransAction, currently underway.

DISCUSSION: For FY 2026-2027, the City applied for two projects, including South Van Dorn Street and Bridge Design; and the Holmes Run Trail Dora Kelley Fair-weather Crossing Bridge. The project applications were due on October 1, 2021. Staff has prepared a draft endorsement letter for the Transportation Commission and is requesting that the Commission review and approve or amend the draft letter, to be submitted to the NVTA.

South Van Dorn Street and Bridge Design (TransAction ID #42 - West End Transitway)

This project will design South Van Dorn Street and the Van Dorn bridges between Metro Road and McConnell Avenue to accommodate dedicated transit lanes for the future West End Transitway as well as improve non-motorized facilities along the bridges for better connections between new developments and the Van Dorn Metrorail station. Design would include structural, civil and traffic engineering as well as community engagement, environmental work, staff time and substantial contingency funds. The existing Van Dorn Street bridge currently includes a narrow sidewalk along the east side and no bicycle facilities. In 2016, the City completed the West End Transitway Alternatives Analysis and the Environmental Documentation was completed in 2017. A conceptual plan for the full build out of the transitway included dedicated bus lanes on Van Dorn Street for the transitway from Metro Road to the north and maintained existing vehicle travel lanes. The Eisenhower West Small Area Plan also recommends multimodal improvements to the South Van Dorn Street bridge. In FY 2022, the City will conduct a feasibility study that looks at traffic, concept options and develops more refined cost estimates to better understand the level of funding needed for design and construction in future years. Beginning the design of improvements in areas where the City has already acquired right of way makes the City very competitive for construction funds for this project.

Holmes Run Trail Dora Kelley Fair-weather Crossing Bridge (TransAction ID #90 – Alexandria Bike and Pedestrian Trails Construction and Reconstruction)

This project will replace an existing fair-weather crossing for the Holmes Run Trail with a prefabricated pedestrian and bicycle bridge. The fair-weather crossing is located approximately 400 feet north of the intersection of Beauregard Street and North Morgan Street in Dora Kelley Park. The project will allow trail users continuous, safe and reliable access to the City's off-street trail facilities, as well as other regional trails, and the future West End Transitway. The City is requesting FY23 funds for the design of this project so that construction could begin as soon as construction funds are received in FY26.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Draft Letter of Support



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

www.alexandriava.gov

Monica Backmon, CEO
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

October 21, 2021

Re: Endorsement of grant applications for: FY 2026 – 27 NVTA 70% Discretionary Grant;

Dear Monica Backmon:

At its October 20, 2021 meeting, the Alexandria Transportation Commission voted to provide this letter of endorsement in support of the proposed grant applications for the FY 2026-FY 2027 NVTA 70% Discretionary Grant:

- Up to \$5 million toward the South Van Dorn Street / Bridge design (TransAction Project #42 – West End Transitway); and
- Up to \$5 million toward the Holmes Run Trail Dora Kelley Fair-weather crossing bridge construction (TransAction Project #90 – Alexandria Bike and Pedestrian Trails Construction and Reconstruction)

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for this important grant program. This grant and recommended projects are consistent with the City's Transportation Master Plan and will help to make Alexandria a more sustainable, accessible and safe city with enhanced multi-modal transportation options.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahan
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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

OCTOBER 20, 2021

**TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COMMISSION
JOINT WORK SESSION**

ITEM 7

7:00PM

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Purpose/Goals (10 minutes)
2. Nexus between Transportation and the Environment, Typical Issues and Strategies for On-road Transportation, Baseline Alexandria transportation sustainability and climate metrics (30 minutes)
3. Strengths and Weaknesses of Relevant Current City policies at this Nexus (EAP 2040, AMP, Electrification) and other upcoming City Activities Relevant to Transportation and Sustainability (30 minutes)
4. Energy and Climate Change Action Plan process, Recommended Inputs for Transportation Sector, where TC and EPC can provide value (30 minutes)
5. Vision for Future Collaboration 5-10 years out, Concluding Observations by Group (20 minutes) (Recommend follow up coordination on: Transportation and Sustainability Budget and Legislative Priorities for this coming year)
6. Adjourn at 9:00pm

Background reading materials:

Regional climate and transportation studies

[MWCOG 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan](#), see Executive Summary, pp. 1-9, and Transportation action strategies, pp. 48-53

[Climate Change Mitigation Study, Literature Review](#), Transportation Planning Board, overview presentation, June 2021

- (Short related article by Commissioner Pugh: "[The region can't meet its climate change commitments without reducing car-dependence, a study reveals](#)")

Local Climate Action Plan examples (can skim transportation sections): [Montgomery County](#) (June 2021); [Clean Energy DC](#) (2018)

Article: [How DC plans to address the impacts of climate change on transportation infrastructure](#); by Joshua Montgomery-Patt, GWash, Oct. 11, 2021

[Cutting Emissions by 2030 and Beyond: Smart Land Use and Travel are Essential](#) (March 2021), by Bill Pugh, for Coalition for Smarter Growth. Deep dive on transportation and climate change, with focus on mode shift, land use and equity strategies.

Alexandria transportation and sustainability plans and policies

[Energy and Climate Change Action Plan Update](#)

[Environmental Action Plan 2040](#), see Transportation actions pp. 63-70

[Electric Vehicle Charging Readiness Strategy](#)

Alexandria's [Interdepartmental Long Range Work Plan FY22](#)

National studies

[Driving Down Emissions](#), Oct. 2020 report by Smart Growth America, good background on land use-transportation-climate connection

[How to Move America to Electric Vehicles](#), article by Rocky Mountain Institute, Jan. 2021