



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

June 16, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Councilman John Chapman, Chair Melissa McMahon, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner John Goebel, Commissioner Bill Pugh, Commissioner Bruce Marsh, Commissioner Oscar Gonzalez.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann - Transportation Planning Division Chief, Mark Schnauer - Transportation Planning Division, Sharese Thomas - Transportation Planning Division, Vicki Caudullo – Mobility Services

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

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

Chair McMahon called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

1. Electronic Meeting Notice

2. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

3. May Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes as amended: Commissioner Marsh

Second: Commissioner Pugh

Motion carries unanimously.

4. ACTION ITEM: Grant Applications

ISSUE: Endorsement of grant applications to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTVA) for transportation projects eligible under the 70% Discretionary Grant (FY 2026-27), and to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program (FY 2023-24) and for transportation projects eligible under the Revenue Sharing program.

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

DISCUSSION: Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, presented proposed projects for application to the NVTVA 70%, TA Set-Aside, and VDOT Revenue Sharing grant programs for public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING:

There were no speakers at the public hearing.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane suggested staff include likely sources of funding when creating the Long-Range Plan (LRP).

Motion to endorse the proposed grant applications: Commissioner Gonzalez

Second: Commissioner Kane

Motion carries unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION ITEM: Duke Street IN MOTION Project Kick-Off

ISSUE: Overview of the Duke Street IN MOTION community outreach and conceptual planning / design project for transit along Duke Street.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive the information about the project and support and encourage public participation, particularly during the kick-off week events

DISCUSSION: Mark Schnauffer, BRT Program Manager, presented the Duke Street IN MOTION community outreach design. The total expected project pre-construction timeframe is 12-18 months.

Commission Discussion

Chair McMahon discussed the community's concerns for pedestrian safety on this corridor of Duke Street. As a result of pedestrians trying to cross the corridor, numerous pedestrian deaths have occurred. Chair McMahon feels that an important element of the Duke Street project should be to make this corridor safer.

Commissioner Kane suggested that staff contact the Alexandria Health Department and get feedback on how they connected with the City's disadvantaged residents during the pandemic and use the same strategies for feedback on the proposed corridor improvements.

6. DISCUSSION ITEM: Dockless Mobility Pilot Program

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on the status of the Dockless Mobility Pilot Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission provide input on future program requirements.

DISCUSSION: Vicki Caudullo, Dockless Mobility Program Manager, provided an update on the status of the Dockless Mobility Pilot Program. Some of the key findings with the current pilot program are issues with parking, sidewalk riding and safety, managing scooter complaints, and having either too many scooters in some parts of the City or not enough scooters in other parts of the City. A virtual focus group will be held on June 24th to address the key findings and get community feedback.

Discussion

Commissioner Gonzalez suggested that additional corrals be added for scooter parking. Commissioner Gonzalez is concerned with citizens having to contact scooter companies directly about complaints and scooter issues and those scooter companies managing the complaints. He would like to know if there is another way to audit and track the complaints received. Staff is currently exploring options to improve this process because currently they are limited in what they can do.

Commissioner Gonzalez recommended having a cap on the number of scooters in the city to address the issues of having too many scooters in one part of the City. He also suggested deploying more scooters in equitable areas might be a solution.

Commissioner Kane asked if staff have explored scooter-designated racks like those in Crystal City. He also expressed concern about banning scooter parking from sidewalks in areas where there is no street parking available, such as in the West End. He raised the idea of applying the Capital Bikeshare Bike Angels programs to incentivize users to help redistribute scooters and working with scooter companies to allow good Samaritans to move scooters to an appropriate location.

Commissioner Pugh mentioned that because there is not a one size fit all solution, there really is nowhere to park or ride scooters. Another issue is the overgrown vegetation on sidewalks that is now becoming a concern for pedestrians.

Chair McMahon discussed that the information presented on safety does not include the potential safety issue when scooters are operated inappropriately on sidewalks. She also asked if the distribution numbers are coming from a data source that can help determine if more or fewer scooters are needed in specific areas.

Chair McMahon recommended not labeling something an issue simply because it exists, but to establish an understanding of what constitutes an issue and how it is defined for each of the topics and where you might be able to set standards because without any context it is hard to know if it is an issue.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Budget Process

The budget item will be discussed in September, when more information about the schedule is available.

8. Commissioner updates

Commissioner Kane will meet with the Traffic and Parking Board on May 24th and discussed the city's ongoing parking issues.

Commissioner Marsh met with the Potomac Yard Metro Work Group (PYMIG) on May 24th.

Construction is continuing and the project will be using less wetlands than anticipated in the design.

Commissioner Marsh requested that the City update the PYMIG at its next meeting on the multi-modal aspect of the project, and how the City is planning for bus service, bike stations, etc., at the new station.

Chair McMahon reported that the High School Task Force solicited feedback from the Planning Commission on the received concept drawings of the High School Project.

Commissioner Pugh reported that the Environmental Protection Commission and Transportation Commission will hold a joint meeting on October 20th, the Energy Climate Change Action Plan update will be discussed.

Councilman Chapman discussed the emails received from residents at the Waterfront area concerning parking. Staff is currently working with Council and the Waterfront area residents. WMATA and Amazon have announced they are going to be working on affordable housing on WMATA-owned property.

9. Items for Consent

The Commission discussed the following topics from the Items:

- A. King Street Bus Loop – Commissioner Kane wanted to know about the re-pavement status on Diagonal Street and Daingerfield Road, and if it will include bike infrastructure. Staff reported the two streets will be re-paved after the King Street Bus Loop project is completed and the bike infrastructure will be implemented at that time.

10. Other Business

- A. July Meeting has been cancelled.
- B. Electronic Meeting Policy – The City Clerk has announced that starting July 1st all Boards and Commissions adopt an Electronic Meeting Policy. Staff will coordinate with Chair McMahon on drafting a letter to the City Clerk requiring technology be in place for in-person meetings.

Motion to prepare a letter from the Commission to the City Clerk requiring that technology be put in place to allow Commission members and the public to effectively participate in public meetings: Commissioner Kane
Second: Commissioner Gonzalez
Motion carries unanimously.

Adjournment

At 9:26 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.