



# City of Alexandria

## Transportation Commission

### Regular Meeting

September 2, 2009  
7:30 p.m.  
City Hall, Room 1101

### MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Jayme Blakesley, Mayor William D. Euille, Donna Fossum, Keith Freihofer, Jesse Jennings, Councilman Rob Krupicka, Sean Kumar, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey

**Others Present:** Rich Baier, T&ES, Karen Callaham, T&ES, Bob Garbacz, T&ES, Al Himes, DASH, Yon Lambert, T&ES, Pat Mann, P&Z, Jim Maslanka, T&ES, Karl Moritz, P&Z

#### 1. Minutes

Chairman Kumar asked for edits or comments for the minutes of the July 9, 2009 meeting. There being none, Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted and Commissioner Fossum seconded the motion. The July 9, 2009 minutes were approved 7-0.

#### 2. Transportation Project Funding

##### a. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)/Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Grants

##### b. Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Project Funding

Mr. Baier reminded the Commissioners that providing guidance on transportation project funding is one of their primary functions. He also reiterated the schedule which called for the Commission to submit recommendations to City Council in time for the September 22 legislative session in order for the City to finalize its recommendations to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority by September 25.

The Commission began discussions to complete its task of ranking the priority of the transportation projects. Staff presented a review with an in-depth description, schedule, project cost and proposed amount of 2011 CMAQ/RSTP funding for each of the nine projects. The proposed projects and their funding amounts were:

1. \$600,000 for preliminary engineering studies of exclusive transit corridors
2. \$3 million for new DASH buses
3. \$300,000 for transportation demand management (TDM)
4. \$280,000 for bike racks for DASH buses
5. \$500,000 for improvements on the Holmes Run bike/pedestrian tunnel
6. \$500,000 for a bicycle sharing program
7. \$500,000 for the construction of a new platform on the north side of Eisenhower Avenue Metro station
8. \$250,000 for a multimodal study of the Braddock Road area
9. \$500,000 for bike shelters at City Metro stations

Staff informed the Commission that a new project was added to the prioritization list and one project was removed as staff was informed by DOT that transit vehicle acquisitions are eligible from CMAQ funds and that RSTP funds may be used to fund eligible capital costs for transit projects. Therefore, the Bike-on-Bus-Racks for DASH program was added and funding for a Bicycle Sharing program was removed since it is included in a regional stimulus application.

3. **CMAQ/RSTP and TIP Funding Recommendations (PUBLIC HEARING)**

The Chairman introduced two citizens who requested time to speak at the Transportation Commission's public hearing:

Peter Pennington, 1213 Prince Street, represented the Environmental Police Committee (EPC) and said that the EPC supported all of the projects. Mr. Pennington also called the Commission's attention to the need to support high speed rail and to make Union Station a proper inter-modal transportation hub. Mr. Pennington asked the Commission to consider a study of Union Station in the future.

David Kaplan, 418 Queen St, spoke on the importance of purchasing DASH buses with attached bike racks and bike racks for the older buses to keep bus ridership surging. He also spoke in favor of asking WMATA to include Braddock Road in their Metro Station Multimodal Connections Study.

**The Commission unanimously voted to close the public hearing.**

After discussion, the Commissioners voted unanimously to recommend nine projects for funding to City Council. The motion included a stipulation that any CMAQ/RSTP funds awarded to the City beyond \$3 million be directed to the next unfunded project (Project #4) on the prioritization list.

The projects are:

1. \$500,000 for preliminary engineering of exclusive transitways
2. \$2.4 million for DASH bus acquisition
3. \$100,000 for transportation demand management
4. \$280,000 for bike racks for DASH buses
5. \$500,000 for the Holmes Run bike/pedestrian tunnel
6. \$500,000 for a bicycle sharing program
7. \$500,000 for the construction of a new platform on the north side of Eisenhower Avenue Metro station

8. \$250,000 for a multimodal study of the Braddock Road area
9. \$500,000 for bike shelters at City Metro stations

The Commission moved on to a discussion of the prioritization of the transportation improvement projects for FY 2011 funding. The Commissioners voted unanimously to recommend the following prioritization ranking order of the TIP projects to City Council:

1. Sidewalk, Curb and Gutters
2. Bridge Repairs
3. On-Street Pedestrian/Bike Safety
3. Traffic Control Facilities/Signs and Signals
5. In-Step Program
6. Street Reconstruction and Extension
7. Alley Rehabilitation Program
8. Edsall Road Reconstruction

#### 4. **Staff Updates**

**Hot Lanes** – City Council is reviewing the lawsuit that Arlington County has filed against VDOT to stop the HOT lanes at Shirlington Circle and will be discussing that during their upcoming executive session. The City did not join Arlington County in the suit but is continuing dialogue with VDOT regarding Alexandria’s issues concerning the HOT lanes.

**Crystal City/Potomac Yard** – Discussions are continuing with developers of Landbay F (existing shopping center) regarding redevelopment. Discussions are also ongoing with Arlington County to align their transitway with Alexandria’s. Arlington’s construction is schedule to begin in 2010.

**BRAC-133** – No major transportation developments.

#### 5. **Commission Updates**

**Waterfront Plan** – Commissioners discussed the recent trip to New York City and the relationship to waterfront connectivity.

**Potomac Yard** - Commissioners reviewed a presentation handout from Commissioner Mitchell, discussed proposals to add density at Potomac Yard, and reviewed preliminary findings of the traffic analysis.

#### 6. **Other Business**

None.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Kumar and Commissioner Fossum seconded the motion.