

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 26, 2010

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: YON LAMBERT, PRINCIPAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNER, T&ES

SUBJECT: JUNE 2, 2010 MEETING – FUNDING UPDATE & ACTIONS OF MAJOR TRANSPORTATION BODIES

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This memorandum provides a brief monthly update on funding and/or actions of major regional transportation bodies that relate to Alexandria.

General updates on funding-related issues of local, regional and national importance are provided below. Attachment 1 is the Commission's regular Monthly Update of Regional Transportation Board Major Actions and Funding.

### City

#### *CIP and FY2011 Budget*

The FY2011 city budget was adopted on Monday, May 3. City Council considered (based on the Mayor's possible consensus add/delete list as of Friday, April 30) and adopted the FY2011 General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Operating Budget in the amount of \$531,611,529. A memo outlining specific actions taken during budget adoption is online here >>

<http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/BM100FY2011FinalBudgetAdoption.pdf>

Transportation items of note to the Commission in the final budget adoption include City Council *increases* to the Proposed City General Fund Operating Budget Expenditures for:

\$100,000	Restore DASH bus reductions
\$100,000	Wayfinding sign program (Parking signs)
\$3,000	Old Town parking meters upgrade (TES)
\$60,000	Old Town parking meters upgrade (cash capital)

The City Council also made the following changes in proposed tax and fee rates and new revenues:

\$800,000	Parking meter revenue
\$92,470	Parking violation fine revenue
\$133,000	All May Park All Must Pay
\$69,350	Lower King Street Parking (multi-space meters)

### **State: Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)**

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has posted the Working Draft Fiscal Years 2011-2016 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for public review in advance of four public hearings to solicit public comments about essential rail, transit, transportation demand management, bicycle, pedestrian and highway projects. The SYIP is now available at [www.VirginiaDOT.org](http://www.VirginiaDOT.org) and [www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov) for review.

The \$7.7 billion Working Draft SYIP proposes \$5.6 billion for highway construction and \$2.1 billion for rail and public transportation, focusing on four main principles:

- Funding deficits on projects under way
- Maximizing the use of federal funds
- Funding projects already under way and those with new phases starting in fiscal year 2011
- Funding deficient bridges and pavements

The SYIP also programs \$103 million in federal funding held in reserve in the previously adopted program due to uncertainty in transportation funding at the federal level.

Releasing this reserve:

- Provides partial funding for three stimulus contingency projects
- I-66 paving in the Northern Virginia District
- I-581 improvements at Elm Avenue in the Salem District
- Route 50 Courthouse Road improvements in the Northern Virginia District
- Partially funds VDOT project development costs on the Midtown Tunnel public-private partnership project in Hampton Roads
- Provides funding for the Route 164 Median Rail project in Hampton Roads administered by the Virginia Port Authority
- Provides special program funding (enhancement program, congestion mitigation and air quality funding and regional surface transportation program projects)

Rail and public transportation funding in the SYIP is similar to levels in the revised Fiscal Years 2010-2015 SYIP. However, these levels represent a 10 percent decrease from the SYIP adopted by the CTB in June 2009. The state match for eligible capital expenses is 56 percent, and 36 percent for operating expenses, the lowest in Virginia history.

Public transportation investments focus on key priorities such as the state of good repair, capacity expansion, and security and technology enhancements. Rail investments focus on priorities outlined in the Rail Resource Allocation Plan and advancement of passenger rail demonstration projects in the Interstate 95, Interstate 81 and Route 460 corridors.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is holding four public hearings to solicit public comments about essential rail, transit, transportation demand management, bicycle, pedestrian and highway projects in the Working Draft of the Fiscal Year 2011-

2016 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) to be approved by the CTB in June 2010. A Northern Virginia meeting took place on May 26.

Written comments may be submitted via mail or e-mail until June 11, 2010. Comments can be submitted to:

Public Information Office  
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation  
600 E. Main St., Suite 2102  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov)

**Regional: Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)**

At its meeting on May 19, the TPB received an update on a new discretionary grant program from the Department of Transportation. TIGER II is a \$600 million competitive grant program for surface transportation projects. Pre-applications are due July 16 and final applications are due August 23. The pre-application will include basic information on projects and will be used by DOT to determine eligibility, the presence of the appropriate match and whether NEPA has been initiated.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) endorsed a revised list of projects for funding through the FY 2011 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) to reflect reduced FY 2011 federal funding levels. The list included funding for Alexandria of \$500,000 for preliminary engineering of exclusive transitways and \$100,000 for bike racks on DASH buses.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) approved Resolution #2143 which authorizes NVTC's executive director to apply for eight grants totaling \$7.1 million in RSTP and Section 5309 SAFETEA-LU grant funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on behalf of Alexandria for four transit projects within the city. The grants are:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2008,2009	King Street Access Improvements Project	\$4,200,000
2008,2009	Eisenhower Intermodal Station Improvements	\$1,800,000
2008,2009	Potomac Yard Transit Improvements	\$533,000
2008,2009	City-wide Transit Improvements	\$533,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,066,000</b>

More information is available here >>

<http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org/pdfs/KIT/2010/5.6.10/Agenda%20Item%205.pdf>

**Federal: Funding Updates and Grant Notices or Awards**

The TIGER II program was reviewed in the regional section the TPB.

**Attachment 1:** Monthly Update of Regional Transportation Board Major Actions and Funding