

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 15, 2017

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: MATT MELKERSON, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #6 – PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR NVTA 70% SIX-YEAR PROGRAM (FY18-23)

ISSUE: Consideration of the City of Alexandria’s proposed program of transportation projects for submission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for 70% regional transportation funding for FY 2018 – FY 2023

RECOMMENDATION: Transportation Commission endorses the proposed program of transportation projects for submission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for seventy (70) percent regional transportation funding for FY 2018 – FY 2023; and recommends City Council consideration and approval of the proposed program at the November 28, 2017 Legislative session.

BACKGROUND: In April 2013, House Bill 2313 was signed into law, levying additional taxes and a fee in Planning Districts that meet population, motor vehicle registration, and transit ridership criteria. The additional revenues generated in Northern Virginia through these taxes and fees are deposited into a fund managed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). Thirty (30) percent of the funds are distributed directly to member localities for use on transportation projects; the remaining seventy (70) percent of the funds are distributed by NVTA and used for regional transportation projects.

Projects seeking NVTA 70% regional transportation funds must be included in NVTA’s long range transportation plan, TransAction, which was approved by the NVTA at their October 12, 2017 meeting. At the May 18, 2016 Transportation Commission meeting, the Commission endorsed a recommended project list to be included in TransAction.

DISCUSSION: On October 12, 2017, the NVTA formally requested applications seeking 70% regional transportation funding for its first six-year program, FY 2018 – FY 2023. It is anticipated that approximately \$1.5 billion (based on revenue projections) will be made available within this six-year program for regional transportation projects. The City of Alexandria’s prioritized program of transportation projects is based on need and priority; has been previously endorsed and recommended by the Transportation Commission; and is included in NVTA’s TransAction:

West End Transitway - Northern Segment (Priority 1) - This project is the first phase of the West End Transitway, a BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) service providing high capacity, frequent transit service between Landmark Mall and the Pentagon. The service will connect major employment, residential, and transit hubs to the regional Metrorail system. The funding request will leverage approved SMART SCALE funds and planned FTA (Federal Transit Administration) grant funds.

FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Total Request
\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$60,750,000

Transit Signal Priority on Route 7 and Route 236 (Priority 2) - This project will install Transit Signal Priority (TSP) equipment on the traffic signals along Route 7 (King Street) from Dawes Ave to Quaker Ln and on Route 236 (Duke Street) from S. Walker St to Telegraph Rd. This project improves regional transportation since Metrobus routes on these two roadways provide service beyond Alexandria. The project will support better transit reliability to encourage transit ridership.

FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Total Request
\$0	\$180,000	\$1,015,491	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,195,491

DASH Technology Needs (Priority 3) – This project will provide funding for DASH to invest in technology to improve the operations and efficiency of service delivery. This project includes the procurement of Real-Time GTFS and Real-Time SMS software. Real-Time GTFS will allow DASH to provide real-time trip planning information to patrons and link such data with other transit agencies throughout the region. Real-Time SMS will allow riders to access real-time transit information via text messages.

FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Total Request
\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000

DASH Fleet and Facility Expansion (Priority 4) – This project will provide for expansion of the DASH Fleet to provide additional service connecting Alexandria with major regional employment centers (Pentagon, Mark Center, NSF, USPTO) and transit systems (Metrorail, VRE).

FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Total Request
\$0	\$0	\$2,300,000	\$1,350,000	\$4,110,750	\$4,172,411	\$11,933,161

King Street Pedestrian/Bike Improvements/TSP/ITS (Priority 5) - Upper King Street has a history of pedestrian fatalities due to high vehicle volumes and speeds. It is also a major connection between I-395 and central Alexandria. This project is a high priority project in the Transportation Master Plan and includes new sidewalks along the north and south sides of King Street, and an enhanced bicycle facility, including over I-395, to improve important pedestrian and bicycle access and connectivity, as well as provide the essential traffic infrastructure for future technology improvements.

FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Total Request
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$700,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,200,000

Duke Street BRT (Priority 6) – This project will fund the NEPA process and Design of the project. The Duke Street BRT project will provide high capacity transit service between the King Street Metro station and Landmark Mall and the western City limit and will include dedicated and shared lanes, transit signal priority, full service BRT stations, and pedestrian / bicycle facilities.

FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Total Request
\$0	\$	\$0	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$12,000,000