



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

October 17, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Vice-Chair Melissa McMahon, Commissioner David Brown, Commissioner Bruce Marsh, Commissioner Jake Jakubek, Commissioner Alyia Gaskins, Commissioner Oscar Gonzalez, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner Carolyn Schroeder, Councilman Timothy Lovain.

Staff Present: Hillary Orr - Deputy Director, Transportation, Thomas Hamed –Transportation Demand Management, Ramiro Alberto Rios - Transportation Planning, Quanice Lawson - Transportation Planning

Audio/ Visual presentations are available online:

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

Vice-Chair Melissa McMahon called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Public Comment Period

Jim Durham, Alexandria Resident, provided data from the 2017 Central Alexandria Traffic Study, reporting that 42% of drivers are coming from outside of the city. Durham referenced the VDOT/Transurban proposal to change the HOV lanes on Seminary Road to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. Durham asked the commission to vote against this proposal to reduce greater traffic and safety concerns. Durham also asked the transportation commission to encourage city staff to initiate safety improvements on Seminary Road immediately.

2. October Meeting Minutes

Commissioners accepted minutes as presented. Commissioner Gonzalez abstained due to previous absence.

3. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received written updates about the following:

- WMATA Funding Update
- Alexandria Transit Vision Plan
- WMATA Shutdown 2019 Update

- Seminary Road Project Update – Staff has since updated this consent item to reference that staff has postponed the presentation of potential design options to the public, along with analysis about impacts to traffic, safety, and accessibility for each of the alternatives.

4. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Kane: The Traffic and Parking Board approved a 25-mph school zone near Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School. They also approved left turn restrictions on Cedar and West Rosemount Drive until further notice. Chief Brown from the Alexandria Police Department will attend the next Traffic & Parking Board meeting to address enforcement concerns.

Commissioner Gaskins: The Alexandria Transit Vision Plan Workshop was held on September 29th, 2018 with strong participation from commissioners and city staff.

Commissioner Marsh: The Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group (PYMIG) held a work group meeting on October 22, 2018 at Charles Houston Recreation Center. The group will discuss WMATA project updates, design principles and processes. The group is waiting for an Environmental Assessment from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Furthermore, a Virginia Department of Environmental Quality assessment for the project is pending.

Commissioner Jakubek: The Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Advisory Group met on September 17, 2018. Jakubek stated that there was nothing transportation related to report.

Commissioner Schroeder: The Environmental Policy Action Plan (Phase 1) was approved by City Council.

5. Pilot Shared Mobility Program

Hillary Orr, Transportation Planning Deputy Director, presented the framework plan for a nine-month Shared Mobility Pilot Program for the operation of dockless shared mobility devices (SMDs) within the City. The proposed approach outlines a demonstration program that will evaluate the operations of SMDs in the City of Alexandria. The purpose of this demonstration program is to observe how and whether SMDs help further the City's transportation goals, promote safety and provide real-world information that can guide the development of a longer-term approach. The terms of the proposed program closely resemble the pilot in Arlington County, which was discussed with several SMD providers and was approved by the County Board on September 25, 2018. The pilot will include opportunities for public feedback and a data-driven evaluation which will be incorporated into future Council consideration of whether such a program should be formalized. T&ES staff is coordinating with Alexandria Police Department on enforcement and crash reporting issues. Commissioner Brown made a motion to endorse the nine-month Shared Mobility pilot program and recommend that City Council approve the pilot program. Motion carried with two abstentions from Commissioner Gonzalez and Commissioner Schroder pending updates to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Two Alexandria residents provided comments regarding safety, enforcement and liability concerns.

6. FY 2020 Transportation Demand Management Operations Grant

Thomas Hamed, T&ES Program Manager, presented the commission with background and a high-level overview of the Transportation Demand Management Operations (TDM) Grant. TDM is the application of policies and strategies to reduce trips made using single occupant vehicles, while still ensuring that residents, workers and visitors can reach destinations within Alexandria. Using incentives, education, and marketing, TDM promotes more efficient use of the existing transportation system by influencing the time, route, or mode selected for a given trip. The City has operated a TDM program since 1981 and has applied annually and received funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The annual TDM Operations Grant funds two City full time employees to manage the TDM program,

oversee multiple Federal and Commonwealth grants and to support other multi-modal programs and projects across the City. Mr. Hamed provided a brief explanation of the impacts of the City's TDM program on achieving goals in the Transportation Master Plan and Environmental Action Plan. According to data collected by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC), automobile activity measured in vehicle miles traveled were reduced by 12.5 percent from 2010 to 2016.

Mr. Hamed presented a breakdown of the TDM operations grant, for a total of \$331,300 where the Commonwealth of Virginia awards \$265,040 (80%) and the City contribution is \$66,260 (20%). Commissioner Brown made a motion to endorse the FY 2020 application for TDM Operations Grant funding and recommends City Council consider and approve at the October 23, 2018 Legislative session. Motion approved.

7. FY 2025 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality/Regional Surface Transportation Program

Hillary Orr, Transportation Planning Deputy Director, presented a brief overview of the FY 2025 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) project funding request. CMAQ funded projects must meet these three eligibility requirements:

- 1) Contain a transportation focus
- 2) Reduce air pollutant emissions
- 3) Must be located in or benefit a nonattainment or maintenance area.

RSTP funds are flexible funds that may be used for a variety of regional transportation activities, including but not limited to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, transit capital projects, and transportation / transit studies. The City's funding request for FY 2025 is \$4.5M and includes the following projects, listed in priority order.

- 1) West End Transitway Operations \$1,000,000
- 2) Transportation Demand Management \$500,000
- 3) ITS Integration \$3,000,000

The City of Alexandria must submit the FY 2025 CMAQ/RSTP funding request to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) by December 2018. As projects mature in the annual CIP, staff provides updated estimates of operating impacts from each of these projects. Commissioner Brown made a motion to endorse the FY 2025 CMAQ/RSTP funding request and recommend City Council consider and approve at the October 23, 2018 Legislative session.

8. Commissioner Budget Discussion

Ramiro Rios, Transportation Planning Principal Planner, discussed the FY 2020 Budget Guidance process. Staff confirmed that a formal letter must come from the Chairman or Vice Chair of the Transportation Commission once the commission has compiled group input and determined the final proposed projects priorities list.

9. Other business

The commission discussed details regarding the Alexandria Mobility Plan Steering Committee. Kickoff meeting will be held on November 15th, 2018 at 6pm in the City Hall Council Workroom. The commission agreed to move the next transportation commission meeting to November 15, 2018 at 7pm in the City Hall Council Workroom.

At 9:26 pm, The Transportation Commission adjourned.