



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

April 17, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chairman Stephen Klejst, Commissioner Bruce Marsh, Commissioner Jake Jakubek, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner Carolyn Schroeder, Commissioner David Brown.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann - Transportation Planning Division Chief, Steve Sindiong – Transportation Planning Division, Jennifer Slesinger - Transportation Planning Division, Ellen Eggerton – Environmental Quality Division.

Audio/Visual presentations are available online:

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

Chairman Stephen Klejst called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

1. Public Comment Period

No comment

2. March Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jakubek asked for a correction to other business. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried.

3. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received written updates about the following:

- A. WMATA Budget
- B. WMATA Platform Work
- C. Seminary Road Complete Street Project Update
- D. Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Update
- E. Residential Parking Permit (RPP) Refresh
- F. Residential Pay-by-Phone
- G. Alexandria Repaving Schedule and Processes FY19-FY20
- H. Alexandria Mobility Plan Update

4. **Commissioner Updates**

Chairman Klejst: The Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) held a [Board of Directors Meeting](#) on April 10, 2019 at 5:30pm. Prior to the meeting, ATC held a public demonstration of the Hydrogen Fuel Cell bus at City Hall. The mobile ticketing app will go live in May 2019. FY 2020 budget approved the purchase of 14 new buses, which includes six electric buses. ATC also held a public hearing for the FY2020 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Public Hearing with no public comments.

Commissioner Kane: The [Traffic and Parking Board](#) will meet in the City Hall Council Chambers on April 22, 2019. Agenda items include the consideration to implement and/or install pay stations on residential streets, alternative payment methods, and text size on program signage related to the Residential Pay by Phone program.

Commissioner Marsh: The [Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group](#) (PYMIG) will hold their next work group meeting on April 22, 2019 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center at 7pm.

Commissioner Schroeder: The [Environmental Policy Commission Work Session](#) was rescheduled to April 22, 2019. The City will host an Earth Day Event on April 27, 2019 at Lenny Memorial Fields at Braddock Park at 10am-2pm.

Commissioner Brown: On April 13, 2019, City Council adopted the new chapter to the [Landmark/Van Dorn Plan](#) developed during the Landmark Mall Re-planning Process.

5. **FY 2020-2029 Budget – Public Hearing**

Christopher Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief, presented the City Manager’s Proposed FY 2020 – FY 2029 City Budget. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) totals \$1.617 billion, which represents a \$575 million decrease from the Approved FY 2019 – FY 2028 CIP. The Proposed CIP maintains the reserved 2.2 cents on the base real estate tax rate for the continuation of the City’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) approved by City Council beginning in FY 2012 to support capital infrastructure needs and new operating costs associated with new transportation capital projects. The Proposed FY 2020 – FY 2029 CIP budget represents a continued commitment and investment to several areas of critical City infrastructure, including increased investments in school facilities, maintenance of existing City assets and facilities, and substantial investment in the City’s combined sewer outfalls (CSO’s) to meet State and Federal water quality mandates.

PROPOSED FY 2020 – FY 2029 Budget Highlights

Transportation-Related Highlights

- 311 Implementation in mid FY 2020 with expanded hours, capabilities and staffing
- Continued implementation of municipal fiber and integrating with Smart Mobility traffic signal system
- Variable rate pricing for on-street parking capability
- Use of license plate readers for improved delinquent tax and parking ticket collection
- E-citation capability for Police officer-written moving violation tickets
- The City will further “green” its vehicle fleet with more hybrid and EV’s
- \$3.5 million for clean diesel buses
- All City streetlights will be converted to LED over the next two years

Commissioner Kane asked if the transit signal priority initiative will be extended to other parts of the City and if it will be extended to emergency vehicles. Staff stated that it will be extended to various parts of the city and will only be for buses at this time. Commissioner Brown asked why the 12 million dedicated to the Duke Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Environmental and Design project is considered a Capital investment. Staff

stated this is customary because the Duke Street BRT Environmental and Design project will eventually lead to a capital project and thereby a capital investment. Commissioner Jakubek reiterated that staff should consider allocating more funding resources to the Complete Street Program for additional staffing to avoid any potential delay of Complete Street Program initiatives.

6. Alexandria Transit Vision Plan – Public Hearing

Steve Sindiong, Transportation Planning Division, presented an update to the Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan. The plan is a joint effort by DASH and the City of Alexandria to redesign the Alexandria bus network from scratch based on current/future transit demand and community transit priorities. The plan is anticipated to be completed in winter 2019. A joint Transportation Commission / Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) Board meeting was held on February 13, 2019 to provide an overview of the project and discuss two draft transit network concepts, including a “Ridership” concept, and a “Coverage” concept. These two distinct concepts illustrate two different approaches for future network design and represent different points on the transit network design spectrum between “Ridership” and “Coverage” goals. “Ridership”-oriented service seeks to maximize ridership, increase farebox revenues and reduce subsidies, reduce congestion and promote sustainability by allocating more service to high-density, transit-friendly corridors. “Coverage” -oriented service provides geographic coverage to wider areas so that people in more areas have access to at least some bus service, but the service is often infrequent and less productive. Over the winter, City and DASH staff conducted an extensive civic engagement campaign to present the two network options and receive feedback.

Commissioner Kane asked if staff reached out to Seminary Hill Civic Association and North Ridge Civic Association. Martin Barna stated that they presented to the Federation of Civic Association and plan to meet with North Ridge Civic Association in June 2019. Commissioner Jakubek expressed concern over the impact of ridership on Pickett Street and mentioned that there are several upcoming developments in the neighborhood that may be affected. Commissioner Jakubek mentioned that Uber is competing with public transit. Commissioner Brown commented on the proposed concepts and expressed a need to make sure the voting public understands that the ridership concept does not equal full buses.

Public Comment: Mr. Drudy recommended for the Transportation Commission to read the recent newsletter from Montgomery County that explains the decline in transit ridership. Drudy stated that DASH must resist the decline in ridership by supporting the ridership concept.

7. Environmental Action Plan

Ellen Eggerton, T&ES Sustainability Coordinator, provided an update on Environmental Action Plan (EAP) 2040, which is the City's comprehensive blueprint for creating a thriving, sustainable community. In June 2009, the City adopted the EAP 2030, which aimed at achieving the vision and principles outlined in the City's Eco-City Charter and ensuring the City continues to move toward environmental sustainability.

The EAP update process consists of two phases. Phase One was adopted by City Council on October 13, 2018, for short-term (FY2019 - FY2023) actions in five focus areas: (1) Energy, (2) Climate Change, (3) Green Building, (4) Land Use and Open Space, and (5) Solid Waste. Phase Two will incorporate Phase One and expand to include short-term action items for the remaining five focus areas - (6) Transportation, (7) Air Quality, (8) Water Resources, (9) Environment & Health, and (10) Implementation, Outreach, & Education - as well as propose mid-term (FY2024 - FY2028) and long-term (FY2029 on) action for all ten topic areas. City Council will consider adoption of the Environmental Action Plan 2040 (EAP 2040) on June 15, 2019. A draft of EAP 2040 is available for public comment through April 27, 2019 on the [Eco-City web page](#).

EAP 2040 reflects progress made since the 2009 EAP 2030 and changes in the City, safety, technology, and climate change issues. The Transportation section of the plan is consistent with the vision of the 2008 Transportation Master Plan and recent initiatives including the Complete Streets Program, Vision Zero, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The Transportation Chapter highlights three key goals: prioritizing low-carbon mobility options, reducing automobile dependency, and improving and expanding public transit.

Commissioner Jakubek commented on a short-term action (7.1.2) to add 2 miles of bicycles facilities to the city-wide bicycle network every year until 2023. Jakubek suggested not to include shared-use lanes to promote safety for riders. Staff stated the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan defines shared-use lanes as a valid bicycle facility and changing it in the EAP may cause confusion and make it difficult to reach the short-term action by 2023. Jakubek also commented on the target goal (7.3) to double the miles of dedicated bus infrastructure to at least 1.5 miles by 2030. Jakubek believes that 1.5 miles is too modest and should be increased. Staff stated that there is currently no funding dedicated to increase that goal by 2030. Commissioner Kane agrees with Commissioner Jakubek on short-term action (7.1.2) that two miles is too modest of a goal, and that access to trails should be expanded to increase ridership. Kane also suggested staff consider prioritizing bicycle connectivity alternatives as a separate action and include signage in the bicycle infrastructure definition. Staff will consider these suggestions at the next EPC Work Session. Commissioner Marsh asked if the purchase of electric vehicles is included in the energy renewable goals. Staff confirmed. Chairman Klejst asked if there are any other constraints besides the lack of funding to create more than two miles of bicycle facilities per year. Staff stated that adding bicycle infrastructure is largely based on the repaving schedule, Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and traffic volume on those streets. Commissioner Brown made a motion to endorse the Transportation Chapter of the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) 2040 as consistent with Transportation Master Plan. Commissioner Brown amended his motion to endorse the EAP 2040 as amended with the comments and feedback of the commission. Second motion carried.

8. I-395 Commuter Choice Grant Application

Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, T&ES Transportation Planning, provided an introduction to the [I-395 Commuter Choice](#) Grant application process. As part of the December 2017 agreement for the 37-mile High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on I-395/95 from Spotsylvania to the Washington, D.C. line, the toll operator (Transurban) is required to provide grant funding for the I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program. The program is intended to support projects that maximize person throughput in the corridor and implement multimodal improvements. Tolls provide the revenue necessary to fund new projects, which benefit toll payers by improving mobility, supporting new, diverse travel choices and enhancing transportation safety and reliability. After consideration of the eligible project types and project scoring, City staff recommend working jointly with DASH to request funding for two projects to enhance DASH bus service through the I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program.

The proposed top priority project would provide weekday peak and off-peak, Saturday, and Sunday service enhancements for the AT1 bus route. This project is recommended as the top priority because it would build ridership along the planned West End Transitway corridor. The second project proposes weekday peak and off-peak, Saturday, and Sunday service enhancements for the AT9 bus route. The AT9 provides service to key destinations along the I-395 corridor including the Mark Center and the future Potomac Yard Metro Station. This project would also be a stepping-stone towards the future Alexandria Transit Vision Plan recommendations.

Applications are due May 15, 2019. After the application is submitted, NVTC and PRTC will evaluate projects and provide recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). A public comment period will occur in July and August, with the final proposed program to be adopted in fall 2019. More detailed descriptions and updates can be found on [this website link](#).

Commissioner Marsh asked for clarification of the funding timeline after 20 months. Staff explained that applicants can reapply for funding at that time. Commissioner Brown made a motion to endorse the staff recommendation to support the I-395 Commuter Choice Grant Program funding request.

9. FY 2020- 2025 Six Year Improvement Program

Steve Sindiong, T&ES Transportation Planning Division, provided a brief update on Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) and asked the Commission to support the Alexandria projects included in the plan. The SYIP will include projects such as SMART Scale, Capital assistance grants, FY2020 Operating Assistance, FY2020 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program Grants, CMAQ-RSTP, DASH Grants and FY2020 Special Project Grants. Commission asked staff to clarify funding and confirm the official name for the National Landing area. Commissioner Brown made a motion to endorse and support the letter to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for transportation projects included in FY20-FY25 Six-Year Improvement Program. Motion carries.

Other business

No comments

Adjournment

At 9:27 pm, The Transportation Commission adjourned.