



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

May 15, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chairman Stephen Klejst, Vice-Chair Melissa McMahon, Commissioner Bruce Marsh, Commissioner Jake Jakubek, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner Alyia Gaskins, Commissioner Carolyn Schroeder, Commissioner David Brown, Councilman John Chapman.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann - Transportation Planning Division Chief, Steve Sindiong - Transportation Planning Division, Jennifer Slesinger - Transportation Planning Division, Martin Barna - Alexandria Transit Company, Jose Ayala - Planning and Zoning, Carrie Beach - Planning and Zoning.

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 Marsh made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carries with Vice-Chair McMahon abstaining due to her excused absence.

3. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received written updates about the following:

- A. Bike to Work Day
- B. Dockless Mobility Pilot
- C. Seminary Road
- D. Planning and Zoning Initiatives
- E. Residential Parking Permit Refresh
- F. WMATA Bus Transformation Project
- G. WMATA Platform Work Extension
- H. Potomac Yard Metrorail Station

Commissioner Kane asked for clarification on Bike to Work Day events hosted by the City. Staff stated that

the City will host one event at Market Square.

Commissioner Gaskins asked how staff is responding to residential complaints about the Dockless Mobility Pilot Program. Staff stated the [Dockless Mobility website](#) is updated frequently with the most current information and staff uses Call-Click-Connect to respond to resident concerns. Commissioner Marsh asked if staff receives a report of operator injuries. Staff is reaching out to relevant resources to get available data for the final evaluation of the pilot program. Chair Klejst asked for clarification on how to report abandoned scooters and asked who is responsible for moving the devices. Staff stated that companies are responsible for their equipment devices. Their contact should information should be on the scooters themselves and is also listed on the City's website. Klejst also suggested staff look at the process adopted in the City of Austin, Texas regarding dockless devices and obtain and share as much data and outreach information to residents and business owners. Councilman Chapman stated the city typically tries to allow the pilot to finish before making decisions about ceasing or continuing a pilot. However, City Council will hold a public hearing meeting on June 22, 2019 to allow more discussion on the future of the pilot program and requested that staff explore a mid-way analysis of the pilot. Councilman Chapman also stated that the Commission has an option to draft a letter to City Council with their collective concerns about the pilot program.

Commissioner Jakubek asked about the [Seminary Road Project](#), specifically where Inova Hospital stands on the Seminary Road Project proposals. Staff stated that Inova hospital is primarily concerned about maintaining westbound traffic from Quaker Lane. Staff is also reaching out to Alexandria Police Department and Alexandria Fire Department for their feedback on the project.

Commissioner Marsh asked for additional information on the [WMATA Platform Improvement Project](#) deadline dates, bus driver staff and funding resources. WMATA has not provided any additional information on this project but the City is hopeful that WMATA will complete the project within the current deadline period without any impediments to staff or funding resources.

4. Commissioner Updates

Chairman Klejst: The Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) held a [Board of Directors Meeting](#) on May 8, 2019. The board discussed bus operator contract negotiation sessions scheduled for May 16 & 17, 2019 at City Hall.

Commissioner Kane: The [Traffic and Parking Board](#) held a meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers on April 22, 2019. The board discussed a new pilot parking program to balance the cost of the garage parking and parking meters to increase garage usage during the platform improvement project. The board also discussed recommendations for the Residential Parking Program. The next meeting will be held May 20, 2019; agenda items include recommendations for safety improvements at Windsor Ave and Russell Rd.

Commissioner Gaskins: The [Alexandria Mobility Plan Advisory Committee](#) held their third meeting on May 15, 2019 to discuss project updates and mobility trends. The committee expects a consultant onboard by June 2019.

Commissioner Marsh: The [Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group](#) (PYMIG) held a group meeting on April 22, 2019. The agenda included discussions on the ongoing status of Joint Permit Application, construction schedule and pricing processes. Three design concepts for the Southwest entrance pavilion were updated for discussion. The group plans to use a matrix system to determine the best design concept. The next meeting will be held June 10, 2019 at Charles Houston Recreation Center at 7pm.

Commissioner Schroeder: The [Environmental Policy Commission](#) met on May 6, 2019 at City Hall, Conference Room 2000 to discuss the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) and voted to increase the short-term action (7.1.2) to add 3 miles (instead of 2) of bicycles facilities to the city-wide bicycle network every year

until 2023 to 3 miles. The EPC will present the proposed EAP draft to City Council on June 15, 2019.

Commissioner Brown: Brown shared [Maryland Governor Hogan plans](#) to widen the Maryland beltway and I-270 south with two express toll lanes in each direction. Brown encourages commission and staff to be mindful of these potential changes.

Commissioner Jakubek: The [Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Advisory Group](#) will meet on May 22, 2019 at Patrick Henry Recreation Center at 7pm.

5. Alexandria Transit Vision

Steve Sindiong, Transportation Planning Principal Planner, presented a high-level overview on the Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan. ATV is a joint effort by the City of Alexandria and DASH to redesign the Alexandria bus network from scratch based on current and future transit demand and community transit priorities. DASH and City staff have just conducted the second round of ATV public engagement, which focused on two distinct draft bus network concepts that illustrate two different approaches for future network design. The two draft network concepts represent different points on the transit network design spectrum between “Ridership” and “Coverage” goals. The ATV project team will use the feedback received from the public, stakeholders and city officials to develop a final draft ATV bus network, which will be presented for public comment in fall 2019. The project webpage can be found on the City's [website](#). A second round of ATV public engagement was held during spring 2019 to receive input on the two concepts. At the April 17, 2019 Commission meeting, staff provided a summary of the public engagement that has been conducted to date for the ATV Plan and an overview on the decision-making process moving forward. Commissioners provided feedback to staff on potential areas of concern, which have been documented by staff for consideration as part of the final network design process. Both the Transportation Commission and the ATC Board of Directors held a public hearing on the two network concepts at their respective April and May meetings.

Commissioner Gaskins asked if the visual mappings demonstrated rider demographics to include senior citizens and riders with limited mobility. Staff stated these concepts primarily focused on expanding accessibility in surrounding neighborhoods. Commissioner Kane asked staff to elaborate on the 85% - 15% split recommendation; Kane also reiterated the additional infrastructure needed to implement transit connectivity at every 1/8 of mile throughout the city. Commissioner Marsh asked if the city has their own paratransit program and asked if bus drivers were included in the feedback data. Staff stated the city does have a paratransit program and Martin Barna stated that bus drivers were included in an internal feedback event. Commissioner Brown stated that according to the data provided, many people expressed concern about the negative impact the ridership concept would have on seniors and riders with limited mobility. Brown asked if those concerns were found valid. Staff found the community feedback valid. Brown also asked how minorities and low-income groups fare in the recommendations. Staff stated that low-income and minorities surveyed favored the ridership concept more than coverage. However, both concepts highly benefit both high minority and low-income areas compared with existing service. Vice Chair McMahon made a motion to adopt the Alexandria Transit Vision Plan recommendations, while highlighting that special attention should be paid to seniors, persons with disabilities, low-income households, and minorities in the additional coverage service beyond what was included in the Coverage concept. Motion carries.

6. Eisenhower East Small Area Plan

Jose Ayala, Planning and Zoning Urban Planner, presented an update to the 2019 Eisenhower East Small Area Plan. The intent of the 2019 update is to build on the 2003 vision for a transit-focused, urban mixed-use community while addressing changing market conditions. This update will consider enhanced flexibility of land uses and building heights, two walkable neighborhoods, distinct nodes of entertainment and retail, and potential locations for additional development. The update will build upon the Plan’s existing goals for a balance of residents and employees for a busy 18- hour environment, expanded mobility and connectivity, enhanced pedestrian safety and accessibility, and a network of connected, multi-functional open spaces and

trails for all to enjoy. The community process for updating the 2003 Eisenhower East SAP began in February 2019. To date, the City has held two community open houses, and staff has conducted additional outreach with stakeholders in the area, including coordination with many of the Eisenhower East property owners. On May 21 and June 27, 2019, the City will hold open houses presenting preliminary and final recommendations. Public hearings are planned for September. For more information please visit [their website](#).

Building on the Transportation Master Plan, Complete Street Design Guidelines, Vision Zero Action Plan, and the Environmental Action Plan, as well as feedback from community open houses, staff has been working to develop mobility principles for the planning area. Staff will be developing recommendations that include prioritizing a safe environment for all people moving in and around Eisenhower East and beyond. Feedback from the community has generally focused on expanding bicycle and pedestrian safety and connectivity in the area and have included concrete examples of locations where enhancements are desired. A traffic study is underway to analyze the impacts of additional development on the existing and proposed street network in the Plan area and surroundings. Results of the traffic study will be shared next month and will inform the Plan recommendations.

Other business

No comments

Adjournment

At 9:39 pm, The Transportation Commission adjourned.