



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

September 18, 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 Oscar Gonzalez, Commissioner John Goebel.

Staff Present: Hillary Orr – Transportation & Environmental Services Deputy Director, Christopher Ziemann - Transportation Planning Division Chief, Jennifer Slesinger - Transportation Planning Division, Sharese Thomas - Transportation Planning Division.

Audio/Visual¹ presentation is available online:

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

Chairman Klejst called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 8:02 pm.

1. Public Comment Period

No comment.

2. June Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair McMahon made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, motion carried.

Mr. Ziemann introduced a new staff member with the Transportation Planning Division, Sharese Thomas, Administrative Assistant.

3. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Jakubek: The [Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Advisory Group](#) met on Wednesday, September 9th to discuss the status of the Virginia Paving Permit and the Vulcan site. The Vulcan site now has a developer despite the very challenging space to build along. The proposal for now is some condos facing the railroad tracks, with townhomes in front of the river, and a hotel facing the bridge.

Commissioner Kane: The Traffic and Parking Board met in June to discuss the Seminary Road project. The vote was 3-2 for the four-lane configuration with hawk signals. During the July meeting, parking meters were approved in an area South of Eisenhower Avenue on Hooff's Run Drive, Merrick Road, Eisenhower Park Drive, Savoy and John Carlyle Street with one-hour parking.

Chairman Klejst: During the DASH meeting it was reported that the Platform Improvement Project (PIP) is over. The DASH fare increase that was postponed as a result of the PIP was implemented this past week. from \$1.75 to \$2.00 and is now on par with the WMATA fare structure. On behalf of Commissioner Schroeder, the EPC Retreat and Picnic will take place on Saturday, September 21st at 9:00 a.m. at the Minnie Howard Campus in the Media Room on Braddock Road.

4. Information Item: Smart Mobility

Staff discussed the City's Smart Mobility Framework Plan. The initiative originated from the Intelligent Transportation System Masterplan, which focused on the projects within the Traffic Engineering Division, such as municipal fiber, transit signal priority, and traffic adaptability. Because there is a lot more related to transportation technology and interconnectedness, Staff looked across all departments to determine how to coordinate. Staff explained how the City's smart mobility program will not only coordinate information technology to the transportation system, but also help the way citizens get around by using advancements in information technology to make data driven decisions about the City's transportation network. The framework plan that Staff developed consists of six guiding principles: safety, mobility, forward looking, sustainability, traffic management, and transparency. Staff presented a Smart Mobility Video to show the impact of information technology on the City's future transportation system.

5. Action Item: Budget Priorities

Chairman Klejst introduced this item. The City Manager has asked for a strategic level feedback from the Transportation Commission, to determine how funds are best allocated for the FY21 budget. In addition, the City Manager is looking for the highest priority services and initiatives from the Transportation Commission's perspective. Staff informed the Commission of the four major categories in which current transportation funds are allocated: transit, state of good repair, multimodal transportation and smart mobility. Commissioners Kane and Jakubek recommended increasing funding to assist Staff with the Vision Zero implementation and the Complete Streets Program, due to the numerous transportation projects pending.

Vice-Chair McMahon made a motion to have staff prepare a letter on behalf of the Transportation Commission to be signed by Chairman Klejst to the City Manager expressing that the Commission's highest priorities for FY21 budget remain the preservation of the 2.2% transportation reservation to expand the multi-modal transportation infrastructure, transit options, the implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan and funding for the DASH public transit system. Where additional resources are available, they should be dedicated toward Vision Zero implementation and the Complete Streets Program. Commissioner Kane seconded the motion, motion carries.

6. Discussion Item: CMAQ/RSTP Grant Consideration

CMAQ/RSTP are Federal Annual Grants that are often bundled together. The CMAQ grant is focused on reducing emissions and improving air quality, while the RSTP grant is more flexible in terms of what it can be used for. Staff is coming to the Commission to discuss types of projects for FY26, and in October will return with a recommendation that reflects the September conversation. In November, Staff will bring this to City Council and in December will submit the funding request to Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA).

Commissioner Jakubek mentioned that there is not an allocation for bikeshare in the FY25 budget year because there are other major projects, but he would like to suggest allocating money for bikeshare in the FY25 budget. Commissioner Kane asked whether there is money left over from previous fiscal year budgets and if so, if it carries over. Once a project is complete, if there are remaining funds Staff will work with NVTA to reprogram

prior year funding and transfer those funds to existing/future project (s).

Vice Chair McMahon stated that CMAQ and RSTP have different carryover provisions, and that you cannot easily move FY20 funds to FY25 because of grant restrictions. Commissioner Kane questioned if unspent funds from previous years for Capital Bikeshare was the reason for not applying for future funding. Staff confirmed that it was, and the funds are still allocated for the bikeshare program. Commissioner Kane asked if those unspent funds were at risk because of the contracting issues. Staff stated that it was not. Commissioner Kane referred to Commissioner Jakubek's comment about allocating funds for bikeshare in the FY25 budget and if it makes sense to allocate funds in FY25 for bikeshare. Since Staff has not had to replace bike stations yet and needs to confirm that CMAQ provisions may be used for replacement stations. Staff will consider writing it into the grant language to be able to allocate the funds in FY26 to replace some of the older stations if needed.

Commissioner Kane asked if the Backlick Run Trail project was fully funded with the \$7.5 million. Staff is not recommending adding additional funding at this time for the Backlick Run Trail project because of the uncertainty of the acquisition of right of way. Commissioner Kane also asked if Old Cameron Run was funded, Staff stated that it was fully funded.

Commissioner Marsh asked if Staff considered partnering with Virginia Tech or other pilot programs within the State on the Autonomous Pilot Shuttle idea. Commissioner Marsh feels that it is worth pursuing. Staff is considering partnering with Virginia Tech and Arlington County on a shuttle going to Amazon from the Virginia Tech Campus. Additionally, the ITS Master Plan recommends it.

Vice-Chair McMahon suggested having an Alexandria City Public Schools Transportation Liaison attend one of the Commission Meetings to explain how they fit into the Transportation Master Plan.

Staff commented that starting in FY25, Staff is moving away from funding smaller projects with grant funding and towards larger projects to improve efficiency.

7. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission discussed the following topics from the Consent Agenda:

A. Dockless Mobility Pilot

Chairman Klejst asked if the Commission will be getting an action item on the [Dockless Mobility Pilot Review](#) in October. Staff confirmed there will be an action item in October. Commissioner Kane mentioned the robust report Arlington County received from the vendors and if Staff would be presenting this to City Council. Staff confirmed they will be presenting a similar report to City Council in November.

B. Potomac Yard Metro

Commissioner Marsh mentioned that the last outstanding permit was received from the Army Corps of Engineers. They conducted their public comment period in early April and May on the permit. The next Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Group meeting is scheduled for the week of September 23rd.

8. Other business

Staff encourages all Advisory Committee members to attend the Innovation Forum on October 7th. From 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. There will be an open house followed by a presentation starting at 7:00 p.m.. The City is bringing together a diverse group of industry experts to talk about what is new in mobility and transportation planning. The open house will allow residents to provide feedback.

Chairman Klejst raised the issue of Commissioner attendance. For absences to be considered excused,

Commissioners should notify the Chair and Staff ahead of time.

Staff presented the idea of obtaining electronic tablets for each Commissioner to eliminate using paper. This will allow each Commissioner to refer to the most recent version of the Transportation Commission docket electronically. The general consensus of the Commission is to pursue this idea. In addition, the tablets could be used for Community outreach events also.

Adjournment

At 8:51 pm, The Transportation Commission adjourned.