



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

October 21, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Councilman Canek Aguirre, Chair Melissa McMahon, Vice-Chair Oscar Gonzalez, Commissioner Bruce Marsh, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner John Goebel, Commissioner Bill Pugh, Commissioner Jeff Bennett, Commissioner Larry Chambers, Commissioner Alyia Gaskins.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann - Transportation Planning Division Chief, Jennifer Slesinger - Transportation Planning Division, Megan Oleynik – Transportation and Mobility Services, Sharese Thomas - Transportation Planning Division, Jose Ayala – Department of Planning & Zoning.

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

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

Chair McMahon called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

1. Electronic Meeting Notice

Motion: Chair McMahon requested to switch the order of Agenda Items 5 and 6, so that the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy go before the Long-Range Plan work session.

Second: Vice Chair Gonzalez

Motion passes unanimously.

2. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

3. October Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes as presented: Commissioner Kane

Second: Vice-Chair Gonzalez

Motion carries unanimously.

4. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Bennett: Attended the electric bus unveiling event on October 19th.

Commissioner Chambers: WMATA Board voted on the FY21 budget amendment to address the gap of \$210 million dollars. The service changes will include a mix of bus and rail strategies and a continued 25% cut to WMATA bus services. Given the larger budget gap for FY22, the FY21 bus proposals will likely continue into FY22. The Mayor has submitted a letter to WMATA expressing Council's concerns. The DASH Board has drafted a letter in support asking WMATA to reconsider bus routes especially on equity considerations.

Ridership remains flat on DASH at 34% pre-covid and is expected to grow to 50% ridership by close of FY21. Double safety barriers will be installed on buses to protect drivers from COVID. Also, fare collections will resume starting January 1, 2021, the same as WMATA.

The electric bus unveiling was attended by Josh Baker, DASH General Manager; Governor Northam; Transportation Secretary Valentine; and Mayor Wilson. Governor Northam commended the City for its efforts on renewable energy.

Commissioner Gaskins: The High School Project Advisory Committee did not meet this month.

Future AMPAC meetings will focus on AMPAC not becoming just another plan, but a tool to advance other plans, such as bicycle safety, Vision Zero, Complete Streets and some of the initiatives of the Environmental Action Plan.

Vice-Chair Gonzalez: Attended the electric bus unveiling and was very impressed.

Commissioner Kane: The Traffic and Parking Board (T&PB) approved the bikeshare station on the unit block of Duke Street. The City added four additional bikeshare stations this summer on Beauregard, Eisenhower Avenue, and at Port City Brewery.

A four-way stop sign was approved for the intersection on Kenwood and Crestwood, due to the high volume of traffic. The City approved a price reduction for parking at Carlyle to encourage utilization.

Fourteen bikeshare stations were acquired from Arlington and will be installed for use by the Fall. The T&PB will meet next week to approve installation of the bikeshare stations on the West End.

Commissioner Marsh: The Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group (PYMIG) met on September 21. The Board of Architectural Review is in the process of approving the South pavilion design. Construction is in progress on the North pavilion foundation to connect the walkways to the South pavilion. Platform shoring and slab placement for the platform station and elevator tower is also being constructed. The next PYMIG update will be on Monday, October 26. The station is anticipated to open in the Spring of 2022.

Commissioner Pugh: The Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) met on Monday, October 19th. The Commission received an update on the City's Draft Alternative Fuel and Fleet Policy. The goal is to reduce emissions by 25% over the next ten years.

In addition, the Commission finalized its legislative priorities. The transportation related priorities are adopting clean car standards, and a transportation climate multi-state initiative program establishing a cap around gas and diesel sales.

5. Discussion Item: Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

ISSUE: Staff provided an update on the City of Alexandria Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Readiness Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive this update and provide feedback on the Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Readiness Strategy.

DISCUSSION: Megan Oleynik with Mobility Services and Bill Eger, Energy Manager presented this discussion item on the Readiness Strategy recommendations.

6. Work Session: 2020 Transportation Long Range Plan

ISSUE: Staff provided an update of the 2020 Transportation Long Range Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission review the draft evaluation scores of the 2020 LRP project list and provide feedback as part of its responsibility to develop and maintain a comprehensive Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP) that identifies the City’s long-range transportation needs.

DISCUSSION: Jennifer Slesinger, Principal Planner, presented the update of the 2020 Transportation Long Range Plan. Commissioners discussed their scores and several members determined that they would adjust their scores based on further consideration of the discussion.

7. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission discussed the following topics from the Consent Items:

- A. Complete Streets Outreach**
- B. Dockless Mobility Task Force**

8. Other business

A. The Virtual Meeting Policy will be discussed at a later date.

Adjournment

At 9:17 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.