



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

February 19, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Melissa McMahon, Vice-Chair Jake Jakubek, Commissioner Bruce Marsh, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner John Goebel, Commissioner Stephen Klejst, Commissioner Carolyn Schroeder, Commissioner Oscar Gonzalez, Commissioner Alyia Gaskins.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann - Transportation Planning Division Chief, Mark Schnauffer - Transportation Planning Division, Sharese Thomas - Transportation Planning Division, Jose Ayala – Department of Planning & Zoning.

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

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

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

1. Public Comment Period

No Public Comment.

2. February Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept as presented: Commissioner Kane

Second: Vice-Chair Jakubek

Abstain: Commissioner Gonzalez

Motion carries.

3. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Klejst: The DASH Board had a shareholder's meeting on Tuesday, February 11. The City Manager and City Council have authorized two new positions for Board. There is an aggressive search for female candidates for these positions, due to a lack of successful female recruitment in the past. The Transportation Commission is encouraged to circulate the news regarding female recruitment for the two new positions.

Commissioner Marsh: The Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group (PYMIG) met on Monday, January 27. Construction is taking place on the Northside of the pavilion. The Implementation Work Group had been waiting on cost estimates for the design concept and what it would cost to revise the work order for the additional work. The current contractor has put together a preliminary estimate for the design concept. However, the estimate is higher than WMATA is willing to accept, so they are in a pre-negotiating status with the contractor. Given the large discrepancy between what the contractor is asking for and what WMATA is willing to pay, it looks like another bid may have to be placed for the revised work to be done by another contractor. WMATA is the lead but is working with the City on reducing the cost estimate to a reasonable price. Another meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24 to discuss the cost estimate.

Chair McMahon: Attended a community meeting for the Potomac Yard North Small Area Plan update to address the new Virginia Tech Innovation Campus and all the changes that will be required. The area that will require the biggest change is on East side Potomac Avenue. While this meeting was just about the land uses, there will be another meeting in March focused on design. The developer is on an aggressive time schedule associated with the 2024 academic year. The theater will vacate this fall to prepare for demolition.

Commissioner Kane: The Traffic and Parking Board (T&PB) met on Monday, January 27. There is expansion to the residential pay-by-phone parking program occurring on the 200 block of Duke Street. The T&PB also received and update on the King Street Place project and will decide on parking removal to accommodate the pilot.

4. Information Item: High Capacity Transit Corridors Update

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on the status of the High Capacity Transit Corridor Projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the update.

DISCUSSION: Mark Schnauffer, the City's new Bus Rapid Transit Program Manager, presented this item. In addition to clarifying questions from the commissioners, Commission Kane mentioned that riders found it confusing to refer to the Corridor's as A, B, or C, and that hopefully with the new update the Corridor reference will be changed. Commission McMahon advised that staff must define what is on the table and what is not on the table, because the 2012 feasibility study had a specific layout, although this proposed analysis will be more of a corridor study.

5. Action Item: Proposed Applications for Commonwealth Smart Scale Program

ISSUE: Consideration of proposed projects to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) for FY26-27 SMART SCALE Funding.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission endorse the submission of five projects and maximum funding amounts.

DISCUSSION: Christopher Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief presented this item and explained that more details on the cost estimates will be available prior to the application due date. The Staff is requesting Transportation Commission endorse these applications to Council up to the maximum amount.

BOARD ACTION:

Motion to endorse the submission of five projects and maximum funding amounts for the proposed applications: Commissioner Klejst
Second: Commissioner Schroder
Motion passed unanimously.

6. Action Item: Proposed Application to the Transportation-Land Use Connections Program

ISSUE: Transportation Commission consideration of an application for the Transportation Land Use Connections (TLC) program of the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) to analyze the feasibility and impact of a low-income fare pass program or to identify transit bottlenecks throughout the City in coordination with the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission endorse the City’s application to the TLC Program.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ziemann presented the City’s proposal to apply for one of the two potential projects depending on pending state legislation: Option 1: Low-Income Fare Pass Assessment or Option 2: Transit Bottleneck Identification.

BOARD ACTION:

Motion to endorse the proposed applications for the Transportation Land Use Connections Program with Option 1 being priority and Option 2 being a backup: Commissioner Kane
Second: Commissioner Gonzalez
Motion passed unanimously.

7. Informational Item: Calendar Year (CY) 2020 Work Plan

ISSUE: Staff presented updates to the Draft Work Plan, highlighting the Mobility Plan, the Mt. Vernon and Arlandria initiatives, and the Long-Range Plan development process which starts in April.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide any final feedback on the CY 2020 Work Plan for the Transportation Commission.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ziemann presented the changes to the Work Plan from the draft presented in January. Commissioner Kane asked staff to make a presentation on the repaving dates at the next Traffic & Parking Board meeting. Commissioner Gaskins would like staff to propose the milestones of the Alexandria Mobility Plan to present at the Transportation Commission. Commissioner Kane requested that a trails update be included in the biennial Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan update.

8. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission discussed the following topics from the Consent Items:

- A. Legislative Update
- B. WMATA Budget

9. Other business

Commission Kane asked for the number of dockless permit applications the City has received for Phase 2 of the Dockless Mobility pilot program. There have been five dockless permits issued for Phase 2 of the pilot program. More information is on the [website](#).

Adjournment

At 8:44 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.