

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AND T&ES STAFF

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 3 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various ongoing projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. Funding Update

1. **City Manager Budget Guidance:** Similar to prior year budgets, the City is seeking input on City services and priorities as we begin the budget process. Please review the attached letter from City Manager Mark Jinks and set aside time at your September or October meetings to discuss priorities that may be of concern to your respective bodies. We request that you consider the following questions:
 - o What are the highest priority services and initiatives within your policy area that you feel should be addressed in the FY 2020 budget?
 - o If your area of the budget is required to identify potential reductions for FY 2020, what are the lowest priority services and initiatives that should be considered?
 - o What additional resources might be needed to address your high priorities?

These discussions should consider the Transportation Commission's goals and initiatives, and the [City's Strategic Plan](#) as it remains an important guiding document for the City. The deadline for feedback to the City Manager, through your T&ES staff liaison, by October 26, 2018.

B. Route 1 Speed Limit Reduction:

As part of the Vision Zero traffic safety initiative, the City of Alexandria reduced the speed limit on the Jefferson Davis Highway portion of U.S. Route 1 (between Slaters Lane and Four Mile Run) from 35 mph to 25 mph, effective Monday, August 20.

National data shows that lowering speed limits from 35 mph to 25 mph dramatically reduces the number and severity of crashes. Between 2015 and 2017, 25 people were hurt in 106 crashes on the portion of U.S. Route 1 where the change will be implemented, including three people that were seriously injured. After recent speed limit reductions on King Street,

Seminary Road and Quaker Lane, the average annual number of crashes fell by 53 percent, 40 percent and 33 percent, respectively.

The Vision Zero Action Plan approved by City Council identified speed limit reductions on high-crash corridors as an immediate priority improvement. In addition, City staff regularly analyze safety and accessibility during paving operations and determined that reducing the speed limit on this segment of U.S. Route 1 would also meet the goals of the [Complete Streets program](#).

C. Transportation Master Plan Update:

The City of Alexandria has a longstanding commitment to improving multimodal transportation options that are safe, reliable, efficient and sustainable, consistent with the Adopted City Strategic Plan FY 2017-2022. This plan can be accessed at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/StrategicPlan>. Alexandria City Council's Strategic Plan sets a goal that relates to enabling a transportation network that is regionally linked and easy to navigate regardless of resources and ability, providing access and mobility for economic, social and leisure activities.

The Transportation Master Plan update is one of the most important priority projects for the Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) Department, as it will guide policies, projects and activities related to transportation and mobility citywide. The 2008 Transportation Master Plan will be updated with the development of an Urban Mobility Plan.

Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans incorporate innovative policies, programs and projects to effectively manage and develop infrastructure that would provide important benefits for all network users. Some of these include promoting and supporting non-motorized transportation options, providing economic incentives and disincentives to manage travel demand, planning for and incorporating Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), developing policies for Connected and Autonomous vehicles (CAVs) and envisioning intelligent transportation systems (ITS).

The City's 2008 Transportation Master Plan envisions a transportation system that encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation, reduces dependence on the automobile, and promotes a balance between travel efficiency and quality of life.

In 2016, City Council approved the update to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Chapters of the 2008 Transportation Master Plan (Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan), reflecting changes that have occurred since 2008 including the Complete Streets policy, Capital Bikeshare program, and a move toward implementing more on-street bicycle facilities. In addition, the City has developed the Complete Streets Design Guidelines Manual and approved the Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2028.

Currently, City Staff is working in the procurement process for hiring a consultant that will support the city in the development of the Alexandria Mobility Plan. Furthermore, Staff is also working in the development of outreach materials to start the community engagement process this fall.