

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2020

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 4 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. FY22 City Budget Priorities

The City is currently preparing for the development of the FY 2022 budget. In FY20 and FY21, the City took a hit to our budget with an end result of a \$41 million gap that needs to be closed while still meeting the basics safety-net human needs in our community in FY22. The four City staff Focus Area Teams have been asked to prepare draft FY22 budgets that reflect the five priority areas below and do so through a race and social equity lens:

- Human and Community Services and Assistance Recovery
- Business and Economic Recovery
- Building Community Resiliency to Climate Change
- Investments in Technology
- Policing Initiatives

The City Council held a retreat on November 7, 2020 in which the City Manager's budget goals and Council's budget goals were discussed and provided budget guidance at their November 10th meeting.

B. NVTC Commuter Choice Program

On November 5, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission approved the solicitation of projects in the I-395 and I-95 corridors. The biennial grant cycle seeks to award \$30 million over two years. This grant program has been providing funds for additional AT-1 and AT-9 service. Staff will request review of this funding application by the Transportation Commission at the December meeting. Applications are due January 29, 2021

C. Human Services Recovery Plan

Over the Summer, the City created Recovery Teams to develop recovery plans for various focus areas for the City. The Human Services Recovery Team created a Coordinated Community Recovery Plan that was [presented to City Council](#) on November 10th. The emergence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has created unprecedented challenges for the delivery of coordinated community services to City of Alexandria residents, particularly those who are most vulnerable and facing health risks and financial loss. Approximately 37% of residents in Alexandria have been either unable to afford necessities such as food, housing, childcare, and other essential services or did not have savings to cover regular expenses.

This plan sets forth to identify and provide resources and support to programs, systems, policies, and initiatives that are focused on the City's most vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19. While, many of these services noted in this plan already exist or had been planned prior to Spring 2020, the COVID-19 crisis has elevated the need for many of the services to either be enhanced through interdepartmental and partner collaborations or elevated as a higher priority.

One of the four focus areas of this plan is *Transportation*, with the goal ensuring the infrastructure is in place to provide the most vulnerable within our community the ability to be mobile and connect to their jobs, care, and basic necessities. The highest prioritized Transportation recommendation was to **Advance the ATV 2022 Bus Network to increase frequency of bus service focused on ridership needs**. This recommendation is to increase investment in routes with the highest ridership, primarily on the West End and in Arlandria. Other noted initiatives included advancing the Low-Income Fare Policy study, expanding bikeshare to underserved communities, increasing transit ridership to pre-COVID levels and streamlining the DOT paratransit program for increase needs. The full plan can be viewed [here](#), and the transportation recommendations are listed in more detail on pages 12 and 13.