



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

April 7, 2010
7:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 1101

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Jayme Blakesley, Mayor William D. Euille, Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Councilman Rob Krupicka, Sean Kumar, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Phil Voorhees.

Staff Present: Abi Lerner, T&ES, Karen Callaham, T&ES, Yon Lambert, T&ES, Al Himes, DASH, Sandra Marks, T&ES, Jim Maslanka, T&ES, Pat Mann, P&Z, Karl Moritz, T&ES, Gabe Ortiz, T&ES.

A quorum being present, the Transportation Commission meeting came to order at 7:30 pm.

1. Minutes

Chairman Kumar asked if any items in the March 3, 2010 minutes required editing. Commissioner Fossum requested that future meeting Minutes reflect the presence of a quorum. There being no corrections to the March minutes, a motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Funding Update

T&ES Deputy Director of Transportation Abi Lerner reported the City is continuing its efforts to close a \$44 million gap in spending. VDOT and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) provided the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) with a report on the development of the FY 2011-2016 Six Year Improvement Program at its March 17 meeting. With the expiration of SAFETEA-LU and the absence of a new bill, FHWA will continue operating under various continuing resolutions until December 2010. Formal SYIP public hearings will be scheduled from May 19 through June 2.

3. Long Range Plan

Sandra Marks reviewed revisions to the Projects section of the Long Range Plan. Project descriptions were streamlined and the projects were broken into consistent categories. Ms. Marks reminded the group that projects on the LRP are the larger scale projects. Studies and programs are included as part of the complete LRP. The goal is for the Transportation Commission to adopt the LRP and recommend that the City Council adopt the LRP as the City's Transportation Long Range Plan. After question and answer discussions, a motion was made for the Transportation Commission to adopt the LRP and recommend that the City

Council adopt the LRP as the City's Transportation Long Range Plan. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

4. Transportation Demand Management Plan

Jim Maslanka and Gabe Ortiz of the Office of Transit Services and Programs (OTSP) spoke on development of a long range Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan that will serve as a comprehensive roadmap for transit TDM programming and initiatives for the City. Mr. Maslanka reported Cambridge Systematics has been chosen as the vendor to complete the TDM plan. Mr. Maslanka also stated that because the Transportation Commission is a major stakeholder of the TDM plan, the Commission should create a working subcommittee to ensure the TDM plan is in alignment with the City's Transportation Master Plan. Commissioners Fossum, Mitchell and Posey volunteered to participate on the TDM Subcommittee that will also include participants from the community.

5. Complete Streets

Yon Lambert reiterated that a Complete Streets subcommittee was created in January 2010 with Commissioners Blakesley and Posey. At the subcommittee's March meeting, members reviewed an initial draft ordinance. Commission Blakesley acknowledged that the subcommittee had received public comments which would be incorporated into a final ordinance. Commissioner Blakesley also discussed the possibility of having the full Commission annually receive an after-action report from T&ES staff on maintenance and CIP projects that impact transportation and implementation of Complete Streets. Staff and subcommittee members continue to revise the ordinance and propose to submit a final draft for full consideration by the Commission in June. Upon adoption by the Commission, the ordinance would be forwarded to City Council for consideration after adoption of the updated City Council Strategic Plan.

6. Street Smart

Yon Lambert reviewed the Street Smart campaign, a bi-annual public education, awareness and behavioral change effort in the Washington Metropolitan area. The Street Smart program emphasizes education of motorists and pedestrians through mass media. It is meant to compliment the efforts of state and local governments and agencies to build safer streets and sidewalks, enforce laws, and train better drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. The campaign runs from March 14 through April 14. On March 23, the Alexandria Police Department began conducting increased enforcement of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists at the Metro stations and locations with high traffic crashes throughout the City.

7. Staff Updates

Budget Update –There are budget reductions to T&ES projects proposed in the FY 2011 budget. To offset cuts, raised fees for meters, permits, DASH and DOT Paratransit were proposed. Council is considering enacting a 3 cent add-on commercial property tax. Currently, Arlington has a 12.5 cent add-on commercial property tax and Fairfax County has a 11 cent add-on commercial property tax. This 3 cent add-on tax could generate \$4 million in FY 2011 and \$2.5 million annually thereafter for transportation funding. The money would have to be used as operating expenses to expand transportation systems. The City is also considering a \$1.6 million subsidy for WMATA.

The Commission asked that they be involved in the selection of transportation projects that would be funded by a future add-on tax.

Transportation Commission Notices – Mr. Lambert informed the Commissioners that Transportation Commission meeting materials are sent out with Notices of City Government Meetings, Transportation Alternatives, Transportation Commission and Transportation and Land Use Planning through eNews alerts.

Beauregard Corridor/BRAC Updates – A community work session on the Beauregard Corridor will be held on Saturday, April 10 from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm at Landmark Mall. The theme for the meeting will be “Principles, Goals and Planning Framework”. In a letter to the Mayor, VDOT indicated they would remove alternatives A-1 and D as options for access into the BRAC site. The letter went on to announce that VDOT is still interested in studying alternative access options but the City would have to pay for all future access studies.

8. Commission Updates

Chairman Kumar introduced and welcomed the new Transportation Commissioner Phil Voorhees of the Environmental Policy Commission. Chairman Kumar also announced that at the May meeting, he would likely be resigning from the Commission. He has made a career change and will be joining the U.S. Army’s JAG Corp.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 9:15 pm.