

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 16, 2019

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. Potomac Yard Metro Update:

The Potomac Yard Metrorail Station project has completed all NEPA requirements, received a Record of Decision (ROD) on the preferred alternative by the Federal Transit Administration in October 2016, and received a ROD by the National Parks Service in November 2016. During the procurement process in 2017, it was determined the cost of the station would need to increase from \$268m to \$320m due to increases in prices of materials and labor, and the south mezzanine would need to be removed. WMATA procured a Design-Build contractor for the project in 2018. During the summer / fall of 2018, the City worked with the Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Work Group (PYMIG) to recommend design changes to still accommodate access from the east and southwest, and a recommendation was made to provide a ramp from E. Glebe Rd to the north skybridge. The Council adopted a DSUP Amendment for the design changes in December 2018. In November 2018, Amazon announced its decision to locate the second Amazon headquarters at National Landing, which includes a State contribution of \$50m toward the South entry of the station. The City and WMATA are currently working on design changes to accommodate the south entry, which will be determined by spring 2019. The City is working with the State to secure the funding through various grant sources. In the meantime, WMATA is moving forward with the current approved design, and another DSUP amendment to refine the design to add the south entry will be needed in spring/summer 2019. The project is on schedule to begin operation in early 2022.

B. 2019 WMATA Shutdown Update:

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day of 2019, Metrorail will close all stations south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, including all four stations in the City (Braddock R, King St-Old Town, Eisenhower Ave and Van Dorn St). WMATA is taking this action because the platforms are deteriorating. Closing the stations allows continuous access to repair the platforms.

Staff and WMATA have been working on a mitigation plan, designed to keep residents, workers, and visitors moving. Staff will present WMATA's bus bridge plan as well as a supplemental City plan mitigate the impacts of the shutdown to Council at their January 22 legislative session. WMATA will provide four bus bridges. Other elements of staff's plan include expanded DASH service, employer outreach, awareness of water taxi access, and carpooling and vanpooling incentives.