



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

July 15, 2010
7:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 1101

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Jayme Blakesley, Mayor William D. Euille, Jesse Jennings, Jennifer Mitchell, Phil Voorhees

Staff Present: Mark Jinks, CMO, Karen Callaham, T&ES, Yon Lambert, T&ES, Abi Lerner, T&ES, Faroll Hamer, P&Z, Al Himes, DASH, Sandra Marks, T&ES, Jim Maslanka, T&ES, Pat Mann, P&Z, Andrea Wilkinson, T&ES

Due to a lack of quorum, the Transportation Commission meeting began with what was Agenda Item # 6 Staff Updates. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. after a quorum was reached.

1. Staff Updates

Funding for Priority Transportation Projects – The Transportation Commission’s subcommittee met on June 10 and July 6 to discuss the criteria to be used for selection of projects to be funded that relate to commercial activity. The subcommittee members will be contacting stakeholders for input in identifying key priorities in the City and the key elements to use for selecting projects. A guide will be developed to use as a reference in identifying the high priority projects and sub-set of projects to be funded that have an economic benefit to the City.

Potomac Yard - On June 12, City Council approved the rezoning plan. An environmental analysis will be initiated next to analyze locations for the Potomac Yard Metrorail station. Transportation improvements, infrastructure, open space, neighborhood traffic calming, affordable housing and public art will be phased in as development occurs.

Beauregard Corridor Plan - The Beauregard Corridor plan is underway and the City is looking closely at the complex transportation issues in the corridor. Options being studied include parallel travel routes to relieve overburdened streets and intersections, options for travel to activity areas and amenities, such as shops, parks and schools, implement high capacity transit along the corridor in accordance with the City’s Transportation Master Plan, locate transit routes and stops to maximize the effectiveness of high capacity transit and minimize walking time. Planning Commission and City Council workshops will be held in the fall of 2010. Transportation will be one of the topics on the agenda for the September 30, 2010 community meeting.

Parking/Waterfront – A draft plan of this initiative will be released late summer/early fall. The transportation section of the plan focuses on parking and bike and pedestrian access issues. Some of the recommendations will include pedestrian signals, wayfinding and additional transit services to increase trolley hours and frequency. Staff has partnered with the Old Town Parking Study Work Group (OTAPS) on the overlapping recommendations that relate to the waterfront. OTAPS remaining meetings are July 20, August 3, 17, and 31st from 5-7pm in City Hall room 2000. Meeting topics will include extension of meter hours, modification of meters time limits, parking in residential permit parking zones, all may park – all must pay implementation, enforcement, and use of private garages, multi-space meters and valet parking.

Transitway Feasibility Study - City Council approved a master plan to adopt three high capacity transitways in the City in the vicinity of the Route 1 corridor, Duke Street and the Van Dorn/Beauregard Corridor. As a result, the 13-month study for the transitways recently began. The study will look at the feasibility of such transitways in segments. The Van Dorn/Beauregard transitway will be the first priority of the study in order to have recommendations for the Beauregard Corridor Plan early enough for implementation. The public will be invited for input when community meetings begin in early fall.

TIGER II – A regional TIGER II grant application was submitted for a bike sharing program. The City is committing \$180,000 which is the 20% match for approximately 150 bicycles in Alexandria. The City applied for a circulator grant for the Potomac Yard Transit Way and was denied. The TIGER I grants have not been released as the TFA and COG are still negotiating these.

2. Minutes

Chair Jayme Blakesley requested comments or edits on the June 2, 2010 minutes. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Jennings and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. The June 2, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Monthly Funding Update

On June 22, City Council authorized \$71,942,521 for capital projects and expenditures. Public transportation and traffic control facilities received a combined \$7,437,000. Streets, bridges and non-motorized transportation for King Street paving and shared use paths received a combined total of \$1,331,000. The CTB adopted the SYIP which includes \$7.8 billion for rail, transit, TDM, bicycle, pedestrian and highway projects. The TPB approved a regional pre-application for a TIGER II grant for bike sharing.

3. Complete Streets

In January, the Commission established a subcommittee to investigate adoption of a formal Complete Streets policy for the City and they have been working towards completing a complete Streets ordinance and resolution. The Commission agreed to accept public comments on the documents through June 23, 2010. Input was received and incorporated into the draft from the public, Planning & Zoning, Bike Walk Alexandria, the Office of Environmental Quality and comments from the Transportation Commissioners. Chair Blakesley asked for a motion to approve the ordinance and resolution to be forwarded to City Council for their approval. Commissioner Voorhees moved that the Transportation Commission adopt the Complete Streets ordinance and resolution and Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. The ordinance and resolution was unanimously approved.

4. BRAC-133 TMP PUBLIC HEARING - A public hearing was held to accept comments from the public on the Transportation Management Plan (TMP) for BRAC-133. The intention of the TMP is for the US Army to identify strategies that can influence travel behavior and mode choice of its employees by reducing single occupant vehicle trips to the site. The comments received from the Transportation Commission's public hearing, City staff and at other community meetings will be provided to the U.S. Army for their review and consideration. The BRAC Advisory Group and Ad Hoc Committee continue to hold meetings regarding BRAC-133 community issues. During the Public Hearing portion of the meeting, the Commission heard comments from three members of the public.

5. CMAQ/RSTP Funding

The City annually requests funds from the State through the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) to acquire federal funds through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Programs (RSTP). The request must be submitted the year before allocation therefore staff submitted candidate projects and their prioritization to the Commission for consideration. Recommendations must be received before the scheduled Public Hearing date of September 1, 2010 during the Transportation Commission meeting in order for the Commission to formally make a recommendation to City Council.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm was made and seconded.