

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2019

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 6 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. I-395/95 Commuter Choice

At their October 3rd meetings, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Potomac and Rappahanock Transportation Commission both voted to refer the list of recommended projects from the I-395/95 Commuter Choice Inaugural Program to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for final approval. Ten projects totaling \$18,950,049 were recommended for funding, including Alexandria and DASH's two projects - Enhanced Bus Service on AT-1 (Plus): West End to Van Dorn Metro for \$3,040,000; and Enhanced Bus Service on AT-9: Mark Center to Potomac Yard for \$1,949,000. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will vote to adopt the program of recommended projects at its October 17 meeting.

B. Transportation Set-Aside Grant Submission

City Council approved the Transportation Set-Aside Program grant application for \$1 million on September 24, 2019 to construct a new sidewalk on Seminary Road between Zabriskie Drive and Beth El Hebrew Congregation. If awarded, the project will require a 20% city match, which will be paid for by the Complete Streets Program. The Transportation Commission endorsed this project in June for funding, as well as a trail reconstruction project on the Holmes Run Trail at Dora Kelly. The decision over which project the City would ultimately submit for funding was dependent on the outcome of the Council meeting on the Seminary Road Complete Streets project. Since Council voted for the road diet on Seminary Road, which allows for the completion of the sidewalk, staff proceeded with the grant application for the Seminary Road sidewalk.

C. Bus Transformation Project

On September 5, the Bus Transformation Project Team released its final recommendations which include several updates from the draft strategy released in May 2019. The final strategy includes four major recommendations: Frequent and Convenient Bus Service, Bus Priority on Roadways, Customer Experience, and a Task Force to Implement the Strategy. The most significant change from the draft was deferring a reallocation of bus service between WMATA and local providers pending a more thorough, collaborative review. The final recommendations also include more specifics regarding the makeup of a task force responsible for implementation of the strategy.

A [summary strategy](#) and the [full document](#) are available on the [project website](#). Staff is working with the project team as it develops an action plan for executing the strategy, which is anticipated to be released by the end of 2019.

E. Potomac Yard Metrorail Station

In September and October, the contractor (Potomac Yard Constructors) continued construction staging and obtaining required permits. Construction staging included establishing an on-site office, installing an access road to the AC Switchgear building, and clearance of non-wetland areas. Work over the fall will include beginning construction of the AC Switchgear building, beginning foundation construction of the North pavilion / Bridge pier, and removing the traffic circle (and replacing it with a temporary park) on Potomac Greens Drive to allow for truck access.

The contractor is scheduled to complete the alternative cost estimate analysis for the Southwest entrance options this fall, and staff will be presenting it to the Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Work Group (PYMIG) once it is completed. It will then be presented to Council.

The City is working on a communications plan that will be initiated later this fall as major construction commences. The City has received approval of the Water Protection Permit by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and is awaiting approval by the Army Corps of Engineers. The next Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group meeting is scheduled for October 29, at 7:00 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

F. Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV)

The Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Project Team has finalized the final draft Recommended Transit Network, and associated maps, based on public input and direction of the Transportation Commission and Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) Board on the two network concepts (Ridership concept and Coverage concept) presented last spring. They are presented on the [project website](#). DASH and City staff will be conducting public outreach throughout October and November, including two public workshops (October 15, and October 24), various meetings with community groups and commissions, an ATC Board public hearing (November 13), 15-20 pop-up events, transit ridealongs, and an online survey. The Project Team will be presenting the draft recommended network to the Transportation Commission in November.