



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

City Manager Mark Jinks
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

December 16, 2020

Re: FY 2022 Budget Priorities

Dear City Manager:

At its November meeting, the Transportation Commission received an update by Director of Transportation & Environmental Services, Yon Lambert, on the budget situation and the City Manager's budget guidance to staff to develop a budget that reflects five priority areas and to do so through a race and social equity lens.

The Transportation Commission recognizes the very difficult financial situation that the City is facing, and supports these priorities being advanced with an emphasis on racial and social equity. Although not an explicit priority area, the Commission would like to share its transportation priorities for consideration in the development of the City's draft budget as the Commission believes that transportation funding will be critical to supporting several of these priority areas including human services recovery and economic recovery.

Two important initiatives that the City has been advancing over the last several years have become even more critical in this difficult economic time, particularly for the City's most vulnerable residents: Vision Zero and the Alexandria Transit Vision plan implementation.

First, with changing travel patterns, more people are walking and biking, and cars are frequently able to travel at faster speeds, creating potentially dangerous situations. Communities of color and lower income communities typically have much higher rates of pedestrian crashes. The Transportation Commission believes that the City should fully fund advancing the Vision Zero Action Plan to not lose ground against the Vision Zero goal.

Second, the Transportation Commission believes that DASH bus service will be a critical lifeline to ensure the most vulnerable will have access to jobs and essential services, and to reducing greenhouse gases and the City's role in climate change. The Alexandria Transit Vision Plan laid out a framework

network to expand access to low-income and minority populations. Fully funding the proposed network will not only improve access for most Alexandria residents, but will also make DASH service more efficient.

We thank you for your consideration of these two priority areas to help the City advance its strategic goals.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahan

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager Mark Jinks
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Jennifer Slesinger, Principal Planner, T&ES