



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

October 21, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mayor William Euille, Scott Anderson, Christine Michaelis, Jake Jakubek, and Jerry King, Stephen Klejst, James Lewis, Chair Nathan Macek and Maria Wasowski

Commissioners Excused: Councilman Lovain, Annika Moman

Staff Present: Karen Callahan- T&ES, Yon Lambert- T&ES, Patrick Reed-T&ES, Ramond Robinson -T&ES, Carrie Sanders-T&ES, Steve Sindiong -T&ES, Radhika Mohan-P&Z, Chris Bever - OMB

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1. **September 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Nathan Macek asked if there were any changes to the September 16 minutes. It was noted that the minutes should reflect that Commissioners Wasowski and the Mayor were excused, instead of absent. Chair Macek proposed a wording change to the Old Town Parking Study recommendation endorsement made by the Commission per the motion of Commissioner Anderson, as follows:

- Proposed wording: *“There being no public speakers, Commissioner Anderson made a motion to endorse the recommendations of the work group with the exception of the OTAPS position on initiating the process for amending or changing residential permit parking, emphasizing the need for better wayfinding for garages, the need for better parking enforcement, implementation of the Old Town DASH circulator, the pay by phone residential parking pilot. The Transportation Commission disagrees with the OTAPS work group position not to change the process for amending or creating residential permit parking districts. The Commission believes that*

reforming the current process to change on-street parking regulations may expedite improvements in the study area and would allow for more consistent parking regulations block-to-block that would be less confusing to residents and visitors alike. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Michaelis and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Anderson agreed that the proposed wording better aligned with the intent of his motion. Commissioner Jakubek commented the explanation to his question about the Route 7 at I-395 VDOT project was not entirely clear. Commissioner Jakubek had asked about the project's classification as a bridge rehabilitation project. Staff noted that the project was a reconstruction project, which limited the possibility of adding a sidewalk. Chair Macek noted that Transportation and Environmental Service staff member Lisa Jaatinen's last name was omitted from the minutes.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the September 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner King seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

2. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received funding updates for the following ongoing projects: Potomac Yard Metrorail Station; Arlington Transit Development Plan; King Street Metrorail Station; Eisenhower Avenue Metrorail Station; Eisenhower Avenue Street Widening; King Street / Beauregard Street Improvement; West End Transitway; VRE Pedestrian Tunnel; and, Envision Route 7.

Chair Macek asked why the Farrington Connector Feasibility Study was missing from the prioritized list of transportation projects that the Commission and City Council approved for funding through the HB2 grant. Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) Acting Deputy Director Carrie Sanders noted that the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) contacted staff after City approval but before submittal regarding the project. DRPT informed the City that the City's proposal is a study. Only physical improvements qualify for HB2 funding. Commissioner Jakubek volunteered to attend the Envision Route 7 meeting on November 4 as a representative of the Transportation Commission. Transportation and Environmental Services Transit Services Division Chief Ramond Robinson reported that staff has invited the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) to attend a Transportation Commission meeting to provide an overview of the Envision Route 7 project.

3. Commission Updates

Chair Macek solicited volunteers for a City Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Street Names and Memorials. Commissioner James Lewis volunteered to serve as the Transportation Commission delegate to the group. Chair Macek announced two upcoming meetings, which are part of the City's series of community meetings on budget priorities for FY2017 (October 24, 2015 at Minnie Howard at 10:00AM and November 4, 2015 at Cora Kelly Recreation Center at 7:00PM).

Commissioner Wasowski noted that she has asked the Planning Commissioner Chair to appoint another Planning Commissioner representative to the Transportation Commission in her place. As President of the Old Town North Advisory Group, Commissioner Wasowski proposed periodically bringing updates to the Transportation Commission from the Advisory Group. Chair Macek agreed as there currently is no Old Town North Advisory Group delegate to the Transportation Commission.

4. Eisenhower West Small Area Plan – Public Hearing

T&ES Acting Division Chief of Transportation Planning Steve Sindiong introduced Planning and Zoning staff member Radhika Mohan to present an overview of the planning efforts of the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan. Staff member Mohan shared the Plan's general concept and land use elements, as well as the planning process. City Council directed staff to begin a planning effort in 2013. In early 2014, staff began the public process, which included six community meetings and also solicited public feedback via online engagement.

Mr. Sindiong discussed the transportation elements of the plan. Acting Division Chief Sindiong noted that the Plan's street network is tied to the Land Use network. The Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks and Backlick Run hinder north-south connectivity. Staff explored multimodal bridge alignment options to improve connectivity. The bridge would ultimately serve as an additional future connection for the West End Transitway. Discussions continue between the City and Norfolk Southern. If the multi-modal bridge is not constructed, then Van Dorn Street would need to be widened to accommodate the West End Transitway and improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Mr. Sindiong provided an overview of the proposed roadway, transit and non-motorized improvements. The non-motorized improvements are consistent with those being recommended in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan update.

Mr. Sindiong discussed the results of the traffic analysis. The 2040 Baseline scenario assumes a number of planned transportation improvements due to increases in traffic attributed to regional growth including approved development in the plan area by 2040. A 2040 Build scenario was conducted with, and without the Multimodal Bridge, to assess traffic impacts if the bridge cannot ultimately be constructed. The 2040 Build scenarios were also analyzed based on additional mitigation improvements, such as additional intersection improvements and enhanced transit service. A public hearing was opened. No comments were issued from the public, and the hearing was closed.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to endorse the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan as being consistent with the City's Transportation Master Plan, with additional guidance. Appropriate phasing of transportation planning investments should be implemented in anticipation of occupancy of future development, including sufficient transit to support car-free and car-light lifestyles for households within the Plan area, and especially areas beyond reach of the planned West End Transitway. Near-term transportation improvements should be implemented to support incoming Transportation Security Administration employees at the Victory Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jakubek and unanimously approved by the Commission.

5. FY2017-2026 Budget Guidance

Acting Deputy Director of T&ES Services Carrie Sanders introduced Chris Bever, Assistant Director of the City's Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Sanders gave an update on the budget process. The ten year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds major capital projects in the City. The CIP has numerous funding streams, including the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Sanders detailed TIP expenditures, and asked the Commissioners to consider tradeoffs associated with the budget. A significant portion of the TIP funds the Washington Metropolitan Transportation Authority (WMATA), including current and expanded operating activities. Following discussion, the Commission moved to offer guidance on the 2017 budget, maintaining the general recommendations from the previous year with the following amendments: 1) the Commission recommended continuing to consider capitalizing staff positions; and, 2) the Commission recommended amending the HOV language of last year's recommendations with a recommendation to invest in enforcement to help manage parking and on-street infrastructure resources that promote safety through such measures as HOV, speeding, red light and parking enforcement. The motion was made by Commissioner Jakubek, seconded by Commissioner Wasowski and unanimously approved by the Commission.

6. FY2017-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Balance Project Funding

Acting Deputy Director of T&ES Carrie Sanders stated that conservative funding for WMATA during the FY2016 budget process left a fund balance of \$930,000. Last month, staff brought proposals to the Commission regarding where to allocate the balance. After discussions during last month's Commission and coordination with DASH, DASH Technologies will replace the King/Beauregard Intersection Project. Staff applied for DASH Technologies funding through House Bill 2; however, that is not a guaranteed funding source. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to endorse the revised allocation of the \$930,000 balance. Commissioner Wasowski seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Commission.

7. Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update

Acting Division Chief of Transportation Planning Steve Sindiong noted that the Commission was previously given an overview of the pedestrian and bicycle goals and objectives. He provided an overview of the preliminary plan recommendations developed in coordination with and endorsed by the Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee. One of the key outcomes of the plan is to update the pedestrian and bicycle chapters of the Transportation Master Plan. Another element is the development of the Complete Street Design Guidelines that can be used by staff, developers and the community on the design of different typologies of streets to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

Mr. Sindiong gave an overview of the project schedule and civic engagements held. He provided an overview of preliminary recommendations related to the bicycle network, case study areas, pedestrian and bicycle strategies, priority projects, and proposed bikeshare locations. Staff is seeking input from Commissions and groups over the Fall, and a draft plan based on input should be ready for release in the winter. Staff anticipates completion in spring 2016 after Transportation Commission and Planning Commission endorsement, and

Council approval of the plan and amendment to the Transportation Master Plan. The Commission discussed the following: the Vision Zero program, which aims to eliminate fatalities on the City's transportation network must also address injuries; More education needs to be given to motorists; the Plan needs to include priority Complete Streets projects; the Plan needs more specificity of protected bicycle facilities such as cycle tracks; the Plan needs more specificity of how to have developers be required to provide connectivity between each other; there needs to be transparency for how the priority projects were determined; consider Seminary Road as a priority bicycle project; there should be standards for how intersections and pedestrian signals are designed

8. Other Business

Chair Macek reminded Commissioners to hold the City Council Retreat date of Saturday, November 21. A discussion of transportation priorities may be on the agenda at the retreat. An alternative joint meeting between the Transportation Commission and City Council may be possible in the future.

Commissioner King made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Jakubek and unanimously approved by the Commission.