

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 19, 2020

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 8 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. WMATA Budget

On January 16, 2020, the WMATA Board voted to release the [proposed FY 2021 operating budget and FY 2021-2026 capital budget](#) for public hearings. The docket for the public hearing includes several items that may be included in the final budget, however the final budget will likely not include all items. Highlights include:

Service Proposals:

- Reduced WMATA bus service, which in Alexandria includes:
 - NH-2 will no longer serve Old Town-King Street Station (only the Huntington Station); reduced frequency
 - 7A/Y – elimination of segment between the Pentagon to Downtown DC
 - 22A – elimination of all 22A trips, convert all 22C trips to 22F trips - No service on this route through ParkFairfax. No off-peak service on the route
- Late night weekend train service extended from midnight to until 2AM on Fridays and Saturdays
- Rail service between 5:00 AM and 6:00 AM will decrease (8 minutes to 12 minutes headways)
- Increased Sunday bus service on certain routes in Alexandria including:
 - 7A/F
 - 23B/T
 - 28A
- Increased Sunday rail service to match Saturday service levels

Fare Proposals:

- Small increases in rail and bus fares for passengers paying in cash (no increase to SmartTrip base fares)

- Additional and more economical bus passes
- A flat \$2 fare per trip on weekends
- No cost to people transferring between Metrobus and Metrorail and any jurisdictional bus to rail

Changes from the General Manager proposal shared with the Transportation Commission in December include the following Board Amendments:

- The introduction of a 1- and 3- day weekend pass product
- An increase in MetroExtra Bus service fares
- Dulles Station \$1 surcharge
- Peak fares for late night rail service

On Saturday, February 9, WMATA announced public hearings and opened the public comment period for the Proposed FY2021 Operating Budget and Related Service and Fare Proposals. Public hearings will be held at the following times and locations:

Monday, February 24, 2020

Hilton Arlington

950 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22203

Open House at 6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Metro Points Hotel

8500 Annapolis Road

New Carrollton, MD 20784

Open House at 6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Metro Headquarters Building

600 5th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Open House at 4:00 p.m. – Public Hearing at 4:30 p.m.

Testimony may be submitted online via a survey at wmata.com/budget. The survey will close at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2020.

B. Legislative Update

Many transportation-related bills have been proposed in the Virginia General Assembly that include provisions to increase transportation funding and improve safety. HB1414/SB890, an omnibus transportation bill touches on a wide variety of areas including (as of 2/10/20):

- Funding

- Providing additional funding for NVRTA through an increase to the gas tax, an introduction of a fuel-efficient fee along with an alternative pilot program to charge a fee based on vehicle usage, an increase to the transient occupancy tax, and the introduction of a recordation tax in Northern Virginia
- Increasing funding to transit to reduce fares for low-income transit riders and improve service. Additional funding would be available for operating and capital and for funding dedicated bus infrastructure on routes of regional significance
- Safety:
 - Establishing an open container law
 - Requiring passengers to wear seat belts as a primary offence
 - Prohibiting handheld communication while driving
 - Enhancing speed enforcement
 - Enabling localities to lower speed limits
- Rail
 - Establishing a Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Additional bills have been introduced that align with the City's Vision Zero goals, including clarifying duties of the driver when yielding to pedestrians and increasing penalties for not moving over when approaching a vehicle with warning lights.

Crossover Day was February 11, which is the last day for each house to act on its own legislation, excluding budget. Session adjourns on March 7.