

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 20, 2019

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: YON LAMBERT, DIRECTOR T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #9 – I-395/95 COMMUTER CHOICE GRANT PROGRAM

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**ISSUE:** Provide an overview of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program in anticipation of presenting the Transportation Commission an application for review in April, 2019.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission receive the overview of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program.

**BACKGROUND:** As part of the agreement for the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on I-395/95, the operator Transurban is required to provide grant funding for the [Commuter Choice Program](#) in support of projects that maximize person throughput and implement multimodal improvements. Tolls provide the revenue necessary to fund new projects well into the future. These projects are specifically designed to benefit toll payers.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), OmniRide/PRTC (Potomac/Rappahannock Transportation Commission), The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Commonwealth signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will provide a minimum of \$15 million annually to fund transit related improvements in the I-395/95 corridor as early as 2019. A second MOA, approved by the two transportation commissions in January, will guide NVTC's administration of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program.

All jurisdictions and transit agencies within these two transportation commissions, are eligible to apply (including Alexandria and DASH). Types of eligible projects include:

- New or enhanced local bus service
- New or enhanced commuter bus service
- Park and ride lot(s) and access
- Roadway improvements (Corridor management & ITS)
- Transportation System Management (TSM)/ Transportation Demand Management (TDM)
- Vanpooling/Carpooling

Projects will be rated on the following scale:

- Technical Merit (i.e. expected ability of the project to address some or all of the I-395/95 Improvement Goals)
- Cost Effectiveness (i.e. the impact created per million dollars of toll revenue investment)
- Applicant Preference (i.e. how the project ranks in priority or preference among the other projects submitted by each specific applicant)
- Toll Day One Ready (i.e. points to be assigned based on readiness on or shortly after Toll Day 1). This criteria is only applicable for this first round of applications. Toll Day One is currently expected on or around October 30, 2019.

Because of the emphasis of moving people and for being operating on Toll Day One, the City and DASH are limited as to projects to apply for. Staff is currently coordinating to determine the best and most feasible projects to apply for. The application period is open between April 5 and May 15, 2019. After the application is submitted, NVTC and PRTC will evaluate projects and provide recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) during the Summer. Public Comment Period will occur in July and August, with the final proposed program in September or October, 2019.

Staff will bring the final grant application to the Transportation Commission at its April meeting.