

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2020

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 9 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission receive the items for consent.

**A. King/Callahan/Russell Complete Streets Project**

The City of Alexandria has been working with the community to finalize design plans for pedestrian safety and access improvements as well as traffic congestion improvements to the intersection of King Street, Callahan Drive, and Russell Road. Over the past 3 years, staff has been working to develop, analyze, and design options that mitigate traffic congestion.

The City of Alexandria was awarded a grant from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) to make pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements to improve access to transit. The intersection of King Street, Callahan Drive and Russell Road was identified as a priority location for these improvements. The City kicked off this project at a public meeting in January 2015 and continued to meet through 2016. At this meeting, staff presented the scope of work identified in the grant and solicited feedback from residents as to their main concerns and issues as pedestrians and cyclists at this location. There have been a number of project delays over the past few years, but staff was able to reengage with the community on both the pedestrian and bicycle improvements as well as the community requested traffic optimization to reduce vehicle delay at this intersection. Staff presented options to the community for input and received through Monday, November 9. Materials and FAQs are available on the [project website](#).

Staff has had many discussion with the Traffic and Parking Board over the past few months and will hold a public hearing for final approvals at their December 2020 meeting.

**B. WMATA FY22 Budget Outlook**

The General Manager's proposed budget was presented at the Finance Committee of the WMATA board on Thursday, December 4, 2020. The operating deficit is projected to be \$495 million due to low ridership projections and uncertainty around further federal aid and a vaccine. In order to accommodate this deficit WMATA is proposing the following:

- Deferring wage increases
- A mass lay-off (2,400 employees)
- Transfer funds for \$160 million for preventative maintenance from the capital budget to the operating budget.
- Restricted Metrorail operations:
  - Monday – Friday 5:00 AM-9:00 PM ONLY
  - No weekend rail service
  - 30-minute headways on all lines
  - Turnbacks on the Yellow line (Mt. Vernon Sq.), Red line and Silver line
  - All trains 8-cars
  - 19 Stations closed including Van Dorn and Eisenhower
- Reduction to 41 bus lines of service
  - Fully or partially covering 60 existing lines to provide for essential travel and basic travel needs
  - Alexandria Metrobus service – modified 7A/F, 10B, and 28A only

On December 10, the WMATA Board will review the authorization for public hearings for these service changes.

### **C. Low Income Fare Study**

Earlier this year, Alexandria was awarded \$40,000 by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to study the feasibility and mechanics of a fare program that will benefit low-income riders. COG issued a notice to proceed to Foursquare consulting at the end of November and has started working with staff from the City and DASH to advance the study. The draft final report is expected in April 2021. The findings from the study will help inform the City’s application to the Department of Rail and Public Transit’s new Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP), which was authorized in the 2020 transportation omnibus legislation. The application process for that program is anticipated to open in the summer of 2021.