

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: CARRIE SANDERS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5 – I-395 HOT LANES PROJECT UPDATE

ISSUE: Update on the I-395 HOT Lanes Project

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission (Commission) receive an update on the I-395 HOT Lanes project from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT).

BACKGROUND: There are two ongoing parallel efforts related to the project: 1) VDOT is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) that will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval, and 2) DRPT is preparing a Transit / Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study that will identify projects eligible for funding through the Annual Transit Payment.

DISCUSSION: On August 31, 2016 the Virginia Secretary of Transportation sent a letter to Alexandria, Arlington County, and Fairfax County indicating the Commonwealth has committed to providing a minimum Annual Transit Payment of \$15 million per year to fund eligible TDM and transit improvements along the I-95/395 corridor (Attachment 1). The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will determine the process of awarding, tracking, and evaluating how funds are used.

Identifying the Annual Transit Payment amount is an important milestone for the project since the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) requested that the amount be determined prior to including the HOT lane project into the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) Amendment.

On September 13 VDOT notified the City that the Draft EA has been posted on the VDOT website (http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/395_express.asp). In addition, hardcopies of the documents will be available from September 24 to November 7 at Beatley Library (5005 Duke St. Alexandria, VA 22304). Comments on the EA must be received by November 7 to be considered in the Final EA. Comments may be submitted by email

(395expresslanes@vdot.virginia.gov) or by mail (Amanda Baxter, VDOT Northern Virginia District, 4975 Alliance Dr. Fairfax, VA 22030).

There are several upcoming milestones for each effort in order to complete both the EA and Transit/TDM Study by the end of the calendar year, including:

- DRPT Open House for Transit/TDM Study – September 21, 2016
 - Alexandria City Hall (301 King St. Alexandria, VA 22314) – Sister Cities Room 1101
 - 6PM to 7PM
- VDOT Public Hearing for the EA in Alexandria – October 26, 2016
 - Francis Hammond Middle School (4646 Seminary Rd. Alexandria, VA 22304)
 - 6:30PM to 8:30PM
- TPB Adoption of I-395 HOT Lanes into CLRP Amendment – November 2016
- Completion of EA and Transit/TDM Study – December 2016
- Project Delivery Decision – January 2017
- Begin HOT Lane Construction – January 2017
- Complete Construction – Summer 2019

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 - Letter from Commonwealth of Virginia