



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

July 22, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Nathan Macek, Christine Michaelis, Annika Moman, Jake Jakubek, Stephen Klejst, Jerry King, James Lewis, Nathan Macek and Maria Wasowski

Commissioners Excused: Councilman Lovain, Scott Anderson, Maria Wasowski

Commissioners Absent: Mayor William Euille

Staff Present: Karen Callaham – T&ES, Ramond Robinson – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Allan Fye – T&ES, Brandi Collins – P&Z, Bernard Caton – CMO

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

1. June 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chair Nathan Macek called the meeting to order. He asked if there were any updates or changes to the June 17, 2015 minutes. He stated he submitted typographical edits in advance of the meeting. There being no additional edits, Commissioner King made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Moman. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

2. Updates To Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received updates on the funding of various ongoing projects including the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update, the Eisenhower West Transportation Study, and the Old Town Area Parking Study. Commissioner Macek had requested a chart of grant funding projects and asked staff to orient the Commissioners about the chart. Staff Sandra Marks responded that the chart incorporates the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP), which contains funded transportation projects proposed for development or study over the next six years, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) projects that the Commission recommends to Council, and any additional grants. Commissioner Macek requested that the chart be updated for the September meeting to reflect not only SYIP, CMAQ and RSTP funds, but all of the different funds obtained from the State, such as Rideshare. Commissioner Macek wanted confirmation on public outreach planned for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update. Staff Steve Sindiong reported that in August, outreach will be performed at the Old Town Farmer's

Market, West End Farmers Market, and the First Thursday event in Del Ray. Additionally, the Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee will meet on August 12. Mr. Sindiong stated that the Commission will be updated on the planned outreach at the Commission's September 16 meeting. He added that there will be a public meeting on September 24, 2015. Commissioner Macek reported that the Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) Work Group will be meeting on August 11, 2015 to determine the priority of the Work Group's recommendations. He added that the strategies of the group encourage people to use long term parking in garages, quick turnover parking at meters in commercial areas, and make space available for residents to park in their neighborhoods.

3. Commission Updates

There were no updates offered by the Commissioners.

4. 2016 General Assembly Session – Legislative Proposals

The City's Legislative Director, Bernard Caton, gave a brief update on the Legislative Proposals process for the upcoming General Assembly session. He stated the process begins annually in May with a memo inviting suggestions from all Boards, Commissions, Councils, and Departments. Suggestions are compiled in a draft legislative package, which is presented to Council for their consideration. Afterwards City Council holds a public hearing on the proposed Legislative Package in November prior to its adoption. . The last time that the Transportation Commission recommended legislative proposals was in September 2013. The Commission decided to re-endorse the three 2013 proposals and add a proposal to recommend prioritization criteria for House Bill 2 projects based on the City's vision and emphasis for transit and multi-modal mobility. Commissioner King made a motion that staff prepares a letter detailing the Transportation Commission's recommendations for the City's 2016 Legislative Package. The motion was seconded by Jake Jakubek, voted on, and unanimously approved.

5. 2015 Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP) - Public Hearing

T&ES staff member Steve Sindiong reminded the Commission that the LRP is a list of unconstrained projects and/or studies that do not have any funding. In April, staff provided the Commission with an overview on the LRP process. In May, the LRP Subcommittee reviewed and updated the prioritization criteria and added safety as a criteria. Afterwards, Commissioners individually scored the projects. At the June 17 meeting, an overview was provided of the Commissioners rankings, and the Commission provided additional input. The Commission discussed the revised project priorities. Commissioner Michaelis noted that there are safety issues along Seminary Road and on Quaker Lane. She requested that the Seminary at Janney's Lane project have additional language to include safety needs for pedestrians and bicyclists, and that in the meantime, the City continue to look at short term safety improvements through the Complete Streets program.

Following the Commission discussion, a public hearing was opened. Mr. Dino Drudi of 315 N. West Street stated the Old Town Transit Store should not have been allowed to close. He stated he has to go to Arlington County to upload his employer transit benefits. He suggested that Commuter Direct, which is run by Arlington County, be allowed to take over the Old Town Transit store. The hearing was closed, and Commissioner King made a motion to approve the LRP as prioritized by the Commission and work with staff to develop additional safety improvement projects in the vicinity of Quaker Lane-Seminary Road. In addition, staff should work to find a location for the sale of rail fare media in the vicinity of King Street Station. The motion was seconded by James Lewis, voted on, and unanimously approved

6. Alexandria Transit Development Plan – Public Hearing

T&ES staff member Ramond Robinson gave an update on the Alexandria Transit Development Plan (TDP). He stated the City's consultant, who is funded and managed by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), gave an overview of Alexandria's TDP plan at the June 17 Commission meeting. An approved six-year TDP plan is required by DRPT to apply for DRPT-funding opportunities and State operating and capital assistance. It is also a requirement for any City or transit agency providing all transit services that operate in Virginia. The TDP plan will help transit operators improve efficiency and effectiveness by identifying needs and required resources. An overview of the plan was given to the Commissioners: the draft plan was presented and a detailed summary of each chapter was provided. The TDP project team has recommended implementing the West End Transitway and Potomac Yard Metro CIP projects, continuing to search for new funding opportunities, and as funding becomes available, implementing service enhancements that are detailed within the TDP. Feedback from the Transportation Commission will be incorporated into the final TDP plan and the project team will seek an endorsement from the Commission prior to seeking an endorsement from the Alexandria Transit Company Board and City Council.

After the presentation, the Chair opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments during the Public Hearing, the Commissioners voiced their questions, opinions and concerns. Chair Macek requested to see more detailed information on WMATA route 9A service changes and its impact to Hunting Towers. In addition, he suggested that the 2.4% inflation rate per year assumed in the TDP may be understating the likely growth cost, and suggested that a longer period of time be used for analysis. Commissioner Klejst made a motion to endorse the TDP as presented with a follow-up by staff on comments provided. There being no objections, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Jakubek, voted on, and unanimously approved.

7. West End Transitway Alternatives Analysis / Environmental Assessment (AA/EA)

T&ES staff member Allan Fye stated the overall purpose of the West End Transitway project is to provide an attractive alternative to the private automobile, thereby minimizing traffic congestion. The project also seeks to offer a simple route structure, improved travel speed, frequent all-day service using quality facilities, and many other non-transit improvements.

Mr. Fye introduced Mr. David Whyte of Kimley-Horn and Mr. Jason Mumford of AECOM as part of the West End Transitway AA/EA project team. Mr. Mumford gave an update stating that City Council made high capacity transit corridors a priority in the Strategic Plan in 2010. The AA / EA began in 2013 and is still underway. It examines a range of transit alternatives and documents the effect of each alternative on humans and the natural environment. Mr. Mumford additionally detailed the benefits of each of the build alternatives. Mr. Whyte added that the implementation project team is at a stage where a policy decision—choosing the preferred alternative—has to be made by the City. He added an approved environmental document is also necessary, and that decision is made by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in cooperation with other supporting agencies. The goal of the project is to connect the Pentagon, Shirlington Transit Center, Mark Center, Landmark Mall and Van Dorn Metrorail station. The project has established two route service patterns that will be refined. One route pattern connects Van Dorn Metrorail to the Pentagon via Shirlington Transit Center. The other route is faster, connecting Van Dorn Metrorail station to the Pentagon via the Mark Center and I-395 HOV lanes. Mr. Whyte indicated the project group had received feedback about bike and pedestrian safety concerns along Van Dorn Street. As a result, the multi-use path design was

modified at intersections to improve safety and visibility, and the project group is in the process of making relevant changes to the conceptual engineering documents. He stated that the project group is documenting all of the different concerns of City departments, citizens, the FTA, and Board and Commission members heard during meetings for consideration when the project arrives at those phases of the design. Mr. Whyte added that the project is still in the implementation stage and that the current work underway is not at a stage that will result in a final engineering design, operating plan, phasing plan, or financial plan. Mr. Whyte indicated that the project group has addressed the recommendations of the Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study related to Corridor C. Out of that study, alternative D (Bus Rapid Transit) is the preferred alternative for Corridor C. He gave a list of technical work items that require completion, as well as planned upcoming community outreach initiatives.

8. Other Business

Chair Macek requested that future minutes denote which Commissioners were excused, and which were unexcused. He also reminded the Commission that there will not be a meeting in August, and the next meeting will be on September 16, 2015.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jakubek to adjourn the meeting, and was seconded Commissioner King. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.