



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

June 15, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Jerry King, Commissioner David Brown, Commissioner Ryan Jones, Vice-Chair Nathan Macek, Commissioner Christine Michaelis, and Commissioner Jake Jakubek

Commissioners Absent: Councilman Chapman, Councilman Lovain, Commissioner Stephen Klejst, and Commissioner James Lewis

Staff Present: Allan Fye – T&ES, Yon Lambert – T&ES, Raymond Mui – DASH, Patrick Reed - T&ES, Ramond Robinson – T&ES, and Carrie Sanders – T&ES

Chair Jerry King called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:07pm. He thanked Commissioners for volunteering their time on the Commission.

1. **May 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Jerry King asked if there were any edits to the May meeting minutes. Vice Chair Macek stated he had emailed typographical edits to staff. He added that he would like to add a sentence to the King Street Metrorail Station project under “Updates to Receive.” He asked staff to amend the minutes to read “Macek reiterated that the public should have an opportunity to weigh in on plans for temporary construction staging before decisions are finalized by the City.” Commissioner Michaelis stated under the NVTVA Transaction update, she wanted to clarify that the motion she made to amend the original motion was contingent on an analysis of whether or not the Bradlee Transit Center would be removed from the Long Range Plan.

There being no additional edits, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice Chair Macek, seconded by Commissioner Michaelis, voted on, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

2. **Updates to Receive (Consent Items)**

The Commission received Funding Updates and Project Updates on the WMATA Operating Funds priorities; Vision Zero; the Route 1 Metroway; the King Street Metrorail Station; the Eisenhower Avenue Metrorail Station; the King Street / Beaugard Street Improvement; the West End Transitway; the Motorcoach Task Force; the Old Town Area Parking Study; the Old Town North

Small Area Plan; and the I-395 Express Lanes.

Chair King inquired about bike parking design details of the Potomac Yard Metrorail station. T&ES Acting Deputy Director Carrie Sanders replied the plan has not progressed to that stage. She added it will be brought before the Commission as the design progresses.

Vice Chair Macek questioned the status of vetting plans for the interim use of the King Street Metrorail Station. T&ES Transit Services Division Chief Ramond Robinson replied that the design of the plan is currently at the 95% stage. He indicated there are no structural modifications involved and that the trees and lighting locations are being determined. He added the bid package includes a traffic plan. Ramond showed the Commissioners a draft staging plan of the site. He indicated the work will be completed in two phases. Daingerfield Road parking will be removed to locate bus bays with shelters at intervals along the street. The kiss and ride will be discontinued for the duration of construction. Bus bays will be available on King Street, including one bay for the Trolley.

T&ES Acting Deputy Director Carrie Sanders stated staff is working on Old Town North Small Area Plan's parking study. Sanders stated that from June 23-25 an Old Town North Mini-Charrette will be held at 66 Canal Center Plaza on the 2nd floor. The purpose of this mini-charrette is to develop a preliminary draft illustrative design and related draft policy narrative. The transportation study of the plan is in a later phase and is anticipated to begin during the summer. She recommended the Commission invite the Chair of the group, Maria Wasowski, to give the Commission an update at a future meeting.

Carrie reminded Commissioners that Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) presented the Commission with an overview of the I-395 Express Lanes project. VDOT is currently working on the project's transportation demand management and transportation study. There were public hearings last spring and a public meeting is scheduled for this fall. The Commission requested staff invite VDOT back in October to provide an update on the project.

T&ES staff Allan Fye indicated jurisdictional staff has arrived at a recommended alternative for the Envision Route 7 study. In July, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) will endorse staff's recommendation to advance it for further study. It has not been determined which jurisdiction will take the lead on the project. Vice Chair Macek asked if it would be appropriate for the City to endorse staff's recommendation as it is similar to the Commission advisement to NVTC when they came before the Transportation Commission a few months prior. Commissioner Jakubek made a motion to compose a letter to NVTC indicating support of the Envision Route 7 recommended alternative. The motion was seconded by Ryan Jones, voted on and unanimously approved.

Vice Chair Macek stated Virginia Railway Express (VRE) information is missing from the City's Safe Track Plan outreach. One can transfer to Metro at any one of the VRE stations. He added the City can be a leader and provide the information about the VRE costs, how and where to purchase tickets, and VRE scheduling information relevant to Alexandria's employees and residents.

Commissioner Jones handed out the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan presentation from June 6, 2016. He noted the alignment options for Potomac Avenue. He stated the Transportation Commission is tasked with two major transportation decisions: 1) making sure the options proposed for Potomac Avenue are compared fairly, and; 2) and the locations of the Metrorail landing and Metroway BRT loading and unloading.

Acting Deputy Director Carrie Sanders stated that as part of the Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan Update, staff was tasked to conduct an evaluation of traffic fatalities and develop a Vision Zero program. She indicated the need for staff to work with the Commission to develop a Vision Zero subcommittee and a policy that would be adopted by City Council. Chair King and Commissioner Michaelis volunteered to be members of the subcommittee.

3. Commission Updates

Vice Chair Macek applauded the King-Beauregard Intersection Improvement Project. He announced the groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, June 18 at 8 a.m. on the southeast corner of the intersection of King Street and N. Beauregard Street in the parking lot of the Abramson Shopping Center.

Commissioner Dave Brown shared that he represents citizens in Montgomery County on land use and zoning issues. On behalf of the citizen's against Metro's purple line, he had filed a case challenging the adequacy of the environmental impact analysis of Maryland's proposed light rail project. He compared the thought process and discussions behind the Transportation Commission's citizens' recommendations as being comparable to the values of citizens he represents. Chair King reported that he spoke to Northern Virginia Transportation Authority regarding funding for the West End Transitway and the Potomac Yard Metrorail station.

4. D.C. to Richmond High Speed Rail Project

T&ES Transit Services Division Chief Ramond Robinson gave an overview on the D.C.-to-Richmond (DC2RVA) High-Speed Rail Project. The DC2RVA project crosses a 123-mile corridor from D.C. to Richmond. It would follow the CSX rail line and be a shared freight and passenger rail corridor with Amtrak and VRE. The high speed rail would reduce travel time and improve trip times. It will be part of a five-state network of high speed rail corridor under development, stretching southward from Washington through Richmond to Raleigh, Charlotte, Atlanta and Jacksonville. The states, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) jointly completed a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2002 with a final EIS expected in 2017. The project is in the process of evaluating alternatives and rail options and has moved into the Draft Environmental Impact Statement phase. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is engaged in a Tier II EIS process that will evaluate the benefits, costs, and environmental effects of several possible alternatives. In the fall of 2016, DRPT staff will present the results of the Draft EIS to the Transportation Commission and hold a public hearing.

5. House Bill 2

T&ES Acting Deputy Director Carrie Sanders stated that HB2 was signed into law in 2014. It requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to develop and implement a measurable and clear ranking process for making funding decisions for capacity enhancing projects within the six-year improvement program. The goal of HB2 is to ensure the state invests limited tax dollars into projects that meet critical transportation needs. The first round of HB2 provided funds to projects from FY 2017 – FY 2021. The second round of HB2 seeks funding for projects for FY 2022 – FY 2023. Staff has developed the following list of projects for the second round of HB2 in order of priority and based on the guidelines and criteria outlined in the HB2 process. They are the West End Transitway - \$20,000,000; the DASH Bus and Facility Expansion – \$7,000,000; the Duke Street at Telegraph Road Ramp Widening - \$10,000,000; the Traffic Adaptive Signal Control Fiber Optic - \$7,000,000; and the Backlick Run Trail - \$3,882,000.

6. The Commission provided feedback on the proposed projects, and recommended that the Telegraph Road ramp project be removed from consideration for this particular funding source, since it is not yet included in any City transportation plans. **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Balance

T&ES acting Deputy Director Carrie Sanders stated as a result of operational efficiencies through the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) State of Good Operations Report for FY 2017, there was a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) balance of \$566,000. City Council had requested that staff work with the Transportation Commission to identify project funding priorities to expend this balance. Staff proposes to use the \$566,000 TIP balance to support the proposed National Harbor/MGM NH-2 pilot service by WMATA. If the National Harbor/MGM Grand NH-2 is approved, the pilot WMATA service would operate from October 2016 to June 2017. The proposed pilot would operate from 6:00am to 1:00am weekdays and weekends. Buses would run in each direction every 30 minutes, connecting Huntington and King Street Metrorail stations in Virginia with the Oxon Hill Park-and-Ride, MGM Hotel, and downtown National Harbor in Maryland. Vice Chair Macek made a motion to recommend City Council support the development of the NH-2 Metro bus route to National Harbor Maryland connecting Huntington Metro, King Street Metro, National Harbor, MGM Casino and the Oxon Hill Park and Ride lot with consideration that the route be revisited to optimize connections between King Street Metro and National Harbor and the MGM Casino instead of initially linking to the Park and Ride lot. His motion also recommended that Council's recommendation for the use of the TIP funds be contingent on developer contributions from the Peterson Group. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Michaelis, voted on and unanimously approved.

7. **2016 Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP)**

T&ES staff Patrick Reed reviewed the draft Transportation Commission ranking scores of the 2016 LRP project list. It was decided finalizing the screening of the projects could take place at the July meeting. He announced the Mt. Vernon Avenue and Braddock Road intersection improvement projects were added to the list based on consolidation of the 2015 projects. He reported there are 14 new projects from recently approved plans which had an effect on the rankings. After discussions, the Commission directed staff to demonstrate a revised scoring methodology and switch the order of the Route 1 Intersection Improvements project with the Commonwealth Avenue Non-motorized bridge project. The Commission agreed to finalize the screening of projects at the July meeting.

8. **Other Business**

An email will be sent to Commissioners to take a poll on availability for the July meeting to ensure a quorum.

Vice Chair Macek announced he will be resigning from the Transportation Commission after the July meeting. City Council has appointed him to the Waterfront Commission.

Commissioner Jakubek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Michaelis, voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.