



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

June 2, 2010
7:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 1101

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Jayme Blakesley, Mayor Bill Euille, Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Phil Voorhees

Staff Present: Karen Callaham-T&ES, Yon Lambert-T&ES, Abi Lerner-T&ES, Al Himes-DASH, Pat Mann-P&Z, Sandra Marks-T&ES, Jim Maslanka-T&ES, Andrea Wilkinson-T&ES

A quorum being present, the Transportation Commission meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Minutes

Commissioner Blakesley (acting chair) requested edits to the May 5, 2010 minutes. There being no corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Monthly Funding Update

Mr. Lerner announced that City Council adopted the budget on May 3. Key transportation items included the wayfinding parking signage program, Old Town parking meters upgrade and restoration to DASH bus reductions. New assumed revenues include a parking meter rate increase to \$1.75 per hour. In the Commonwealth Transportation Board Six-Year Improvement Plan additional funding for secondary roads and urban streets was included as well as \$1.8 million for DASH bus acquisition, \$500,000 for the dedicated transitway corridor study, and the necessary funding to complete the Telegraph Road interchange improvements.

Mr. Maslanka stated that the WMATA Board was also expected to pass operating and capital budgets in June. The budget would provide six years of capital funding and approve the purchase of rail cars to provide for the Dulles extension and to replace the older 1000 series rail cars.

3. Commercial Real Estate Tax

Mr. Lambert reviewed an update from the Commission subcommittee regarding the schedule and process for consideration of a Commercial Real Estate Tax. The subcommittee is expecting to submit a final draft transportation project list to the Transportation Commission for consideration which will ultimately be a recommendation to City Council in time for the FY 2012 budget process. A well formulated project list will be finalized in October. Public outreach meetings are planned for the summer and early fall.

4. Reprogramming of Urban Funds

Mr. Lerner reported potential projects are being considered to submit to City Council for reprogramming urban funds previously set aside for the Eisenhower Avenue widening project. Staff is working to scale back the project while continuing to provide necessary capacity improvements and pedestrian enhancements in the project. A current proposal to reprogram the funds was discussed and reviewed by the Commission.

5. Complete Streets

The Complete Streets Subcommittee of the Transportation Commission has been working on this initiative since January. The subcommittee has decided an ordinance is preferable to a resolution. Staff is accepting public comments via e-mail through June 23. At the next meeting, Commissioners will vote to adopt a resolution and that asks City Council to consider an ordinance for adoption.

6. BRAC TMP

Mr. Paul McMahan of the Washington Headquarters Service presented the draft BRAC-133 Transportation Management Plan to the Commission. Mr. McMahan spoke about the federal employee relocation and what percentage will commute from which nearby localities. Mr. McMahan said the TMP seeks to encourage alternative modes of access other than single occupancy vehicles with a variety of Transportation Demand Management strategies, annual monitoring and surveys. The TMP is available on the City's website. Comments will be accepted from citizens and public agencies for the final TMP.

7. Staff Updates

Mr. Lerner introduced Andrea Wilkinson, the City's new Principal Parking Planner.

Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transit Corridor – Staff provided a brief update on this project which will require development of an environmental in order to use the federal funds. It was determined that this project required a Categorical Exclusion instead of an Environmental Impact Statement. Arlington County was previously granted a Categorical Exclusion for the portion of the transitway extending from the Four Mile Run to the Crystal City Metro station. An environmental determination for the portion in Alexandria between Monroe Avenue and East Glebe Avenue has not been made.

BRAC Updates –Two additional studies are being reviewed. One is working with the VDOT consultant to come up with short term (within 1 year), mid term (1-5 years) and long term (10-15 years) improvements to implement. VDOT provided a scope and schedule and will perform a full operational analysis. City staff submitted comments on the scope and schedule and VDOT is in the process of addressing City comments. These improvements are in addition to those of Duke property proffers. Two additional alternatives into the site as well as Congressman Moran's plan that will limit BRAC parking to 1,000 spaces are also being reviewed.

Potomac Yard Metro – This small area plan was approved by City Council. Staff is moving forward with WMATA on the environmental aspects in implementing a metro station and identifying federal funding for the station. A resolution will be submitted to Council authorizing staff to continue with the environmental assessment.

Regional Bike Sharing Application – The City has provided a letter of interest to Council of Governments for a regional Bike Sharing grant program. The COG is proposing to seek \$10 million in funding for the regional program.

8. Elections

The resignation of Commission Chair Sean Kumar became effective at the May meeting.

Vice-Chair Blakesley opened the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

Commissioner Fossum nominated Mr. Blakesley as Chair and Commissioner Mitchell as Vice Chair. The nominations were seconded and unanimously accepted.

9. Commission Updates

None

10. Other Business

Commissioner Fossum stated the North Beauregard improvements may have ramifications on the BRAC site and the Commission should consider discussions at future meetings. Chairman Blakesley recommended staff and commissioners report back transportation issues discussed at other community and public meetings to be placed on the Transportation Commission agenda.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 9:19 pm and seconded.