



Transportation Commission

March 18, 2020

7:00 PM

City Council Workroom (City Hall, 2nd Floor)

AGENDA

1. Public Comment Period (not to exceed 15 min)
2. Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Meeting
3. Commission Updates
4. **DISCUSSION ITEM: FY21-FY30 City Budget**
5. Updates to Receive (Consent)
 - A. WMATA
 - B. Water Taxi
 - C. 311 Kickoff
 - D. Capital Bikeshare
 - E. Dockless Mobility
6. Other business
 - A. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy Study
 - B. Preview of Long-Range Plan

Public hearing items are so noted on the agenda. The Commission may receive public comments on other agenda items at its discretion. When there is no public hearing, the Commission encourages written comments on agenda items be sent to transportationcommission@alexandriava.gov in advance of or after the meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM in City Council Workroom (City Hall, 2nd Floor).

The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of ADA. An individual with a disability who wishes to request an accommodation may contact the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4086 or TTY/TTD 703-838-5056.



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

February 19, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Melissa McMahon, Vice-Chair Jakubek, Commissioner Bruce Marsh, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner John Goebel, Commissioner Stephen Klejst, Commissioner Carolyn Schroeder, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Alyia Gaskins.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann - Transportation Planning Division Chief, Mark Schnauffer - Transportation Planning Division, Sharese Thomas - Transportation Planning Division, Jose Ayala – Department of Planning & Zoning.

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/TransportationCommission>

Chairman McMahon called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

1. Public Comment Period

No Public Comment.

2. February Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept as presented: Commissioner Kane

Second: Vice-Chair Jakubek

Abstain: Commissioner Gonzalez

Motion carries.

3. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Klejst: The DASH Board had a shareholder's meeting on Tuesday, February 11. The City Manager and City Council have authorized two new positions for Board. There is an aggressive search for female candidates for these positions, due to a lack of successful female recruitment in the past. The Transportation Commission is encouraged to circulate the news regarding female recruitment for the two new positions.

Commissioner Marsh: The Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group (PYMIG) met on Monday, January 27. Construction is taking place on the Northside of the pavilion. The Implementation Work Group had been waiting on cost estimates for the design concept and what it would cost to revise the work order for the additional work. The current contractor has put together a preliminary estimate for the design concept. However, the estimate is higher than WMATA is willing to accept, so they are in a pre-negotiating status with the contractor. Given the large discrepancy between what the contractor is asking for and what WMATA is willing to pay, it looks like another bid may have to be placed for the revised work to be done by another contractor. WMATA is the lead but is working with the City on reducing the cost estimate to a reasonable price. Another meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24 to discuss the cost estimate.

Chair McMahon: Attended a community meeting for the Potomac Yard North Small Area Plan update to address the new Virginia Tech Innovation Campus and all the changes that will be required. The area that will require the biggest change is on East side Potomac Avenue. While this meeting was just about the land uses, there will be another meeting in March focused on design. The developer is on an aggressive time schedule associated with the 2024 academic year. The theater will vacate this fall to prepare for demolition.

Commissioner Kane: The Traffic and Parking Board (T&PB) met on Monday, January 27. There is expansion to the residential pay-by-phone parking program occurring on the 200 block of Duke Street. The T&PB also received and update on the King Street Place project and will decide on parking removal to accommodate the pilot.

4. Information Item: High Capacity Transit Corridors Update

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on the status of the High Capacity Transit Corridor Projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the update.

DISCUSSION: Mark Schnauffer, the City's new Bus Rapid Transit Program Manager, presented this item. In addition to clarifying questions from the commissioners, Commission Kane mentioned that riders found it confusing to refer to the Corridor's as A, B, or C, and that hopefully with the new update the Corridor reference will be changed. Commission McMahon advised that staff must define what is on the table and what is not on the table, because the 2012 feasibility study had a specific layout, although this proposed analysis will be more of a corridor study.

5. Action Item: Proposed Applications for Commonwealth Smart Scale Program

ISSUE: Consideration of proposed projects to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) for FY26-27 SMART SCALE Funding.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission endorse the submission of five projects and maximum funding amounts.

DISCUSSION: Christopher Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief presented this item and explained that more details on the cost estimates will be available prior to the application due date. The Staff is requesting Transportation Commission endorse these applications to Council up to the maximum amount.

BOARD ACTION:

Motion to endorse the submission of five projects and maximum funding amounts for the proposed applications: Commissioner Klejst
Second: Commissioner Schroder
Motion passed unanimously.

6. Action Item: Proposed Application to the Transportation-Land Use Connections Program

ISSUE: Transportation Commission consideration of an application for the Transportation Land Use Connections (TLC) program of the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) to analyze the feasibility and impact of a low-income fare pass program or to identify transit bottlenecks throughout the City in coordination with the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission endorse the City’s application to the TLC Program.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ziemann presented the City’s proposal to apply for one of the two potential projects depending on pending state legislation: Option 1: Low-Income Fare Pass Assessment or Option 2: Transit Bottleneck Identification.

BOARD ACTION:

Motion to endorse the proposed applications for the Transportation Land Use Connections Program with Option 1 being priority and Option 2 being a backup: Commissioner Kane

Second: Commissioner Gonzalez

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Informational Item: Calendar Year (CY) 2020 Work Plan

ISSUE: Staff presented updates to the Draft Work Plan, highlighting the Mobility Plan, the Mt. Vernon and Arlandria initiatives, and the Long-Range Plan development process which starts in April.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide any final feedback on the CY 2020 Work Plan for the Transportation Commission.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ziemann presented the changes to the Work Plan from the draft presented in January. Commissioner Kane asked staff to make a presentation on the repaving dates at the next Traffic & Parking Board meeting. Commissioner Gaskins would like staff to propose the milestones of the Alexandria Mobility Plan to present at the Transportation Commission. Commissioner Kane requested that a trails update be included in the biennial Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan update.

8. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission discussed the following topics from the Consent Items:

A. Legislative Update

B. WMATA Budget

9. Other business

Commission Kane asked for the number of dockless permit applications the City has received for Phase 2 of the Dockless Mobility pilot program. There have been five dockless permits issued for Phase 2 of the pilot program. More information is on the [website](#).

Adjournment

At 8:44 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 18, 2020

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 –PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2021 – FY 2030

ISSUE: Provide an overview of the proposed FY 2021 - FY 2030 transportation budget, highlighting changes from the FY 2020 - FY 2029 adopted budget.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission review and provide guidance on the proposed FY 2021 - FY 2030 transportation budget.

BACKGROUND: Each year the City Manager presents a proposed City Budget to the City Council for consideration and action. As part of the budget process, a ten-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is developed to program funding for major capital projects in the City. Funding for the CIP comes from the City's general fund, grants and other non-City sources of funding including developer contributions.

On February 18, City Manager Mark Jinks presented the Alexandria City Council with a proposed FY 2021 General Fund Operating Budget and FY 2021-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). All FY 2021 budget documents are available on the FY 2021 Proposed Operating Budget and CIP Documents [website](#).

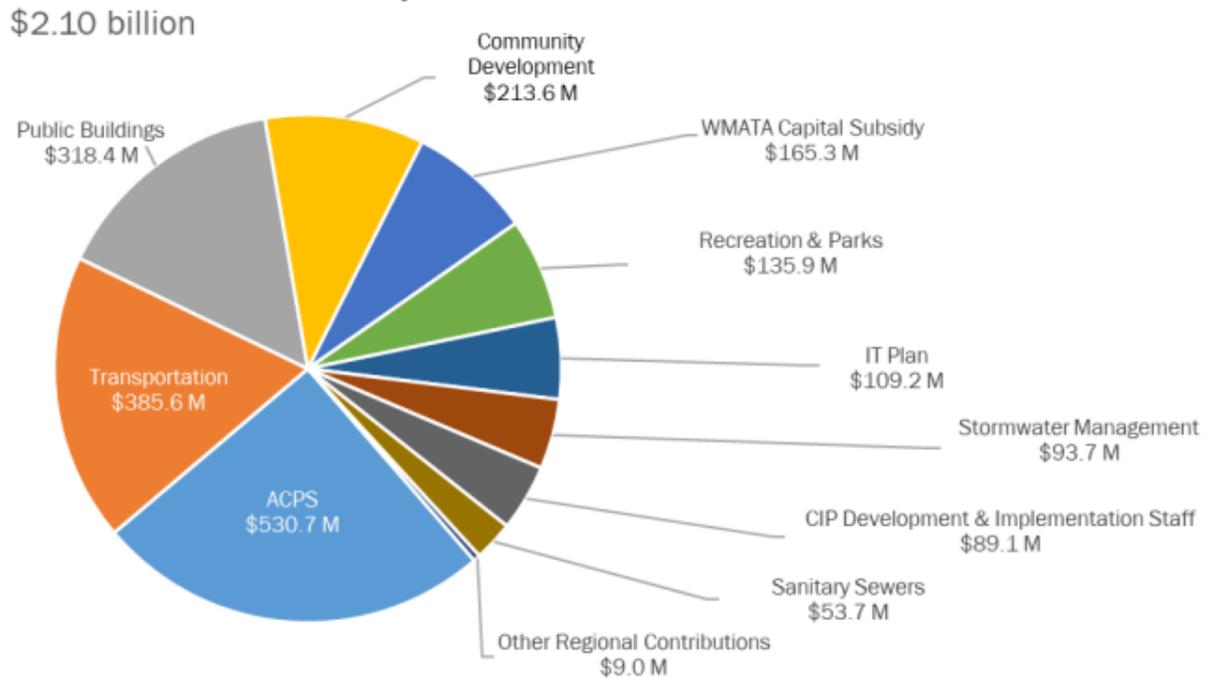
DISCUSSION:

The following sections highlight the transportation component of the FY 2021-2030 CIP including the FY 2021 Capital Budget, and the FY 2021 Operating Budget.

Proposed 2021 - 2030 Capital Improvement Program

The City Manager Proposed FY 2021 – FY 2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) totals \$2.1 billion and is the first major update to the CIP in three years. It represents approximately a \$500 million increase over the approved FY 2020 – FY 2029 CIP.

FY 2021 to FY 2030 CIP Expenditures



Transportation projects make up almost 20 percent of the City’s ten-year plan. The [FY 2021 - FY 2030 Transportation and Transit Summary](#) is available on the City’s website and is included in Attachment A.

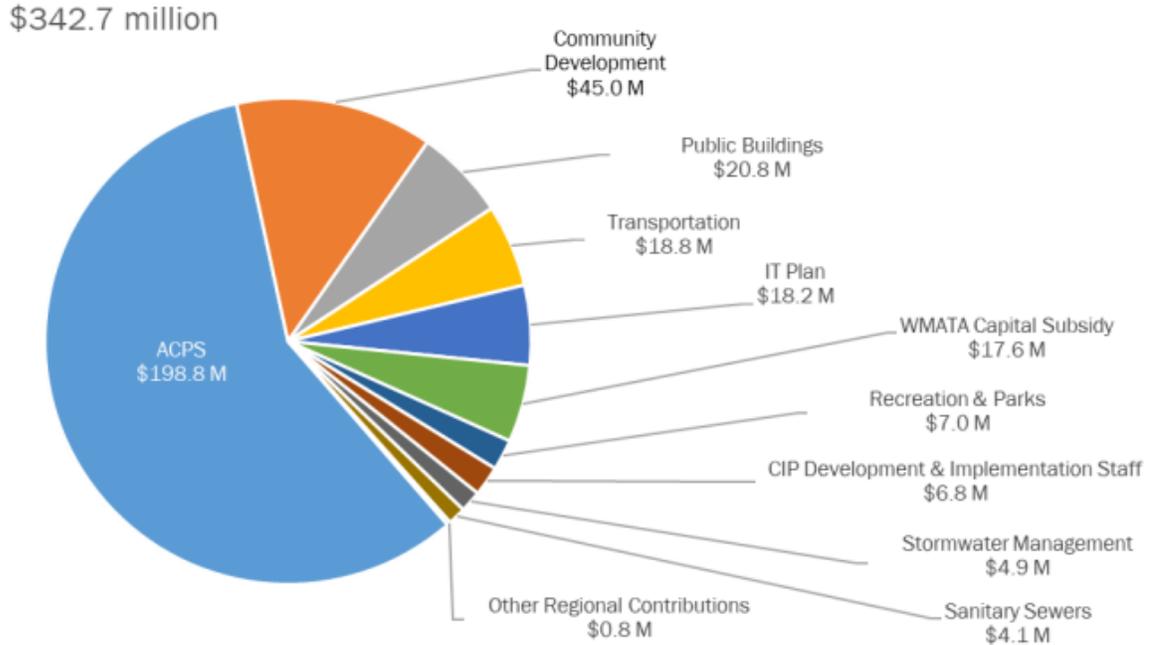
FY 2021 – FY 2030 Transportation-Related Highlights include:

- Funding to begin implementation of the Transit Corridor “C” – West End Transitway totals \$69.4
- Funding to continue the City’s Street Reconstruction and Repaving program totals \$58.4 million
- DASH Bus Fleet Replacements total \$80.2 million, which will allow DASH to begin electrification of the bus fleet.
- WMATA capital funding totaling \$165.3 million. This capital support includes the City’s local match required as part of the recently enacted State dedicated funding. This amount does not include the planned use of NVTC proceeds from State and gas tax funding which the City will use to offset some of the capital costs.
- Funding to advance Smart Mobility initiatives and infrastructure totaling \$19.1 million
- Funding for design and construction of the Holmes Run Trail repairs total \$6 million

New projects include:

- Access improvements at Landmark Mall
- Duke Street and West Taylor Run Safety Improvements
- Four Mile Run Bridge Program (discussed below)
- Holmes Run Trail repairs ([Recreation and Parks CIP](#))

FY 2021 CIP Expenditures



The FY 2021 Capital Budget, the only year formally appropriated by Council, allocated \$18.8M or about five and a half percent of the entire budget to Transportation.

FY 2021 CIP Transportation-Related Highlights

- \$17.6 million to support the WMATA Capital Improvement Program. This funding level reflects the impact of legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2018 to provide a dedicated funding stream for WMATA’s capital improvement needs.
- \$5.5 million for Street Reconstruction and Resurfacing. This includes an additional \$0.9 million of City funds to replace unrealized state revenue sharing funds in FY 2021. Resurfacing of lane miles will increase from an estimated 22 miles resurfaced in FY 2014, to over 55 miles resurfaced in FY 2021.
- \$7.5 million for bridge repairs and refurbishments. This includes \$1.4 million in repairs identified by the long-term bridge maintenance plan and assessment recently completed by the City, and \$6.0 million for the anticipated joint Alexandria-Arlington Four Mile Run Bridge Program agreement, which is contingent upon the two neighboring jurisdictions entering into a cost sharing agreement for the repair and replacement of the five-bridge inventory connecting the two jurisdictions over Four Mile Run.
- \$1 million to begin design of the Holmes Run Trail repairs

FY 2021 Transportation and Transit Operating Budget

Transportation and Environmental Services is included in the [Livable, Green, and Prospering City](#) focus area of the operating budget. A work session on this focus area will be held on March 25 at 7:00PM in Sister Cities 1101. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Fund is the City’s 2.2 cents of reserved real estate tax revenue, which provides funding for transportation

and transit capital infrastructure and the associated operating expenses therein. The TIP continues to support programs such as Capital Bikeshare, King Street Trolley service, bus shelter maintenance and street repair. Additionally, \$1.1M of TIP funding is being used toward WMATA's subsidy for FY 2021.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 2020

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 5 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. WMATA

Budget Update: The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), of which Alexandria has two members (Councilman Aguirre and Vice Mayor Bennet-Parker), submitted two letters to WMATA on the proposed budget. The first pertained only to the [General Manager's proposal](#) and the second included board member amendments that were made later. The letter opposed the approach of cutting bus service to fund service initiatives. It suggested a more incremental approach to fare and service initiatives including the increase to the transfer discount from \$.50 to \$2.00 and on the revenue side, the increase in the max fare from \$6 to \$7. It also expressed concern over the equity impacts of surcharges for cash payments or loading on buses.

The [second letter](#) opposed significant increases to the base fare in addition to asking for a more incremental approach to increasing the max fare. The Commission also opposed the weekend flat fare proposals for their significant revenue impacts and offered that the proposed weekend passes could increase ridership without sacrificing revenue. The letter also proposed a more comprehensive approach outside of the budget process to establishing fare policy.

NVTC WMATA Committee and WMATA Board Update: In February, Christian Dorsey, Virginia jurisdictional representative of the WMATA board stepped down. Alternate Matt LeTourneau, Loudon Supervisor, took his place on the WMATA board. Walter Alcorn, Fairfax County Supervisor was named his alternate. Councilman Aguirre was named Paul Smedberg's alternate. Since Mr. Letourneau moved into NVTC's Principal WMATA Board appointee position, he can no longer serve as chair of the NVTC WMATA Committee. Committee chairmanship and membership is governed by NVTC's By-Laws, which directs the chair be one of the two alternate members appointed by the Commission to the WMATA Board of Directors. Mr. Aguirre was appointed to serve as the chair of the NVTC WMATA Committee at March 5, 2020 Northern Virginia Transportation Commission meeting.

B. Water Transportation

On February 22, the City Council approved a lease modification allowing earlier weekday operations for the Potomac Riverboat Company (PRC) to provide morning Water Taxi commuter service to Washington, DC, from the Waterfront in Old Town. Morning service was previously prohibited, and an exception was granted by the City Manager to make the Water Taxi a viable alternative commute option during the 2019 WMATA Platform Improvement Project. The 2019 program demonstrated sufficient ridership for PRC to pursue long-term commuter service during their Water Taxi operating season, March through December annually. The program also mitigated prior concerns about commuter service, such as riders parking on Old Town streets. Data collected through reimbursement applications indicated less than 5% of commuters drove to connect to the Water Taxi. The City offered partial reimbursement of annual passes and commuter tickets to make the Water Taxi a more accessible option for commuters traveling to and from Alexandria while Metrorail service was shutdown.

This year, the City has received grant funding to offer a reimbursement program for Alexandria residents commuting via Water Taxi during the 2020 season. Details of the program (e.g., eligible ticket types and reimbursement rates) are still being finalized, but commuters who have already purchased annual passes and are Alexandria residents will be eligible for reimbursement once the application opens. More information about the commuter reimbursement program will be published at alexandriava.gov/GOAlex once the program is finalized.

C. Alex311

On February 24, 2020, the City officially launched the [311 Service Request](#) system to replace Call.Click.Connect. It provides access to more than 175 City services and information, it allows customers to attach photos online and through a mobile app, and customers are kept abreast of progress through emails or by tracking online or through the app. Customers can connect to Alex311 through the [website](#), the mobile app, by phone, through Twitter and Facebook, and in person. Alex311 staff commit to being professional, accountable, responsive and courteous.

D. Capital Bikeshare

Staff is working with VDOT to allow the City to move forward with purchasing the bikeshare stations the Transportation Commission reviewed in 2017. In the meantime, staff identified six additional sites for bikeshare stations that can be purchased using funds from developer contributions. Staff is currently confirming that the locations can be supported by the bikeshare operator and is bringing the proposal to the Traffic & Parking Board for review at the end of March. The stations will be purchased this spring and updates on the installation timeline will be posted on the program websites.

Capital Bikeshare also recently launched [Capital Bikeshare for All](#), an upgrade to the system's equity program. *Capital Bikeshare for All* offers a \$5 annual membership for unlimited rides to those who qualify for certain state or federal assistance programs with appropriate documentation. Riders who qualify are now able to sign up individually. Qualifying members will be able to unlock bikes via the mobile application (in addition to the fobs), use more payment methods including prepaid cards, credit and debit cards, or cash (at in-person sign up

locations only), sign up online or in-person at designated locations and ride bikes for 60 minutes at a time.

Capital Bikeshare is planning to relaunch e-bikes this spring. One key difference is that these e-bikes will have a dockless option, meaning they can end trips at a station or outside a station at a bicycle rack within a defined service area. There will be an additional fee to end a trip outside of a station and a penalty if a bike is left out the service area. More details about the expansion and the launch of e-bikes is provided in the February 20, 2020 memo to council.

E. Dockless Mobility

Five companies (Spin, Bird, Lime, Razor, and Helbiz) are currently permitted with the City for the Phase II Pilot Program. One company, Helbiz, is permitted for both scooters and e-bicycles. Each company is permitted 200 devices, for a total of 1,000 scooters and 200 e-bicycles City-wide. In 2019, seven companies were permitted 200 devices each for a total of 1,400 devices. Last year with 1,400 devices permitted, the City generally saw between 400-800 daily depending on time of year.

The application period of the Ad Hoc Scooter Task Force was open in early 2020. The Task Force will consist of thirteen (13) members, to be appointed by the City Manager, representing a diversity of interests related to shared mobility. Applicants selected for the Task Force will be notified soon. Staff continues to work towards signage and locations for posting notice that riding scooters and e-bicycles on sidewalks is not allowed. Staff is also working to identify locations for more scooter parking corrals to be installed.