



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

May 11, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mayor William Euille, Councilman Tim Lovain, Scott Anderson, Christine Michaelis, Annika Moman, Jake Jakubek, Jerry King, Stephen Kleist, James Lewis, Nathan Macek and Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Carrie Sanders – T&ES, Karen Callahan – T&ES, Yon Lambert – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Jim Maslanka – T&ES, Ramond Robinson – T&ES, Lee Farmer – T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Hillary Poole – T&ES

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. **April 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Macek called the meeting to order and asked if there were any updates or changes to the April 15, 2015 minutes. Commissioner King stated he had submitted edits to the minutes to staff that would be incorporated in the final minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was offered by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner King, voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.

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

The Commission received updates on the funding of various ongoing projects, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update, Eisenhower West Transportation Study, West End Transitway, and Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group. Commissioner Macek recapped that City Council followed the Transportation Commission advice and restored funding for all 16 bikeshare stations, the purchase of one DASH bus and an additional earmark of \$930,000. He added there will be a joint work session with City Council and the Transportation Commission in fall 2015 to identify priorities for the earmarked funds.

3. **Commission Updates**

Commissioner Kleist announced that DASH's General Manager reported the Pay It Forward initiative is still going strong with an almost 8% increase in DASH ridership for the month of March, an increase in ridership also on the King Street trolley and the average miles between road calls improved by 32% . Commissioner Michaelis reported that the west side of the City

Draft Bicycle Network was presented to the Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee at its April 16 meeting, and the east half will be presented on May 14, 2015. Commissioner Wasowski recounted dismay amongst the Eisenhower West Steering Committee regarding Norfolk Southern Railway's decision not to permit a multi-modal bridge within the limits of its Thoroughbred Bulk Transfer facility. Commissioner Wasowski stated further that staff is seeking more discussions and clarification from Norfolk Southern while work on the Eisenhower Small Area Plan continues. Chair Macek stated residential parking standards established by the Parking Standards for New Development Projects Task Force will be formally adopted at the Council's public hearing on May 16, 2015. He added that the next standards to be developed will be those for new commercial development. As the Commission's representative on the Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) Work Group Chair Macek indicated the group is proceeding with thinking through what changes are needed regarding on-street parking policies in residential areas. Commissioner Lewis announced that the OTAP's formal recommendation regarding parking meter time limits and hours of operation is on the agenda of the Traffic and Parking Board's May 18 meeting.

4. Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – Public Hearing

Chair Macek recused himself from this public hearing item as his employer had a role in developing material as part of the EIS. Commissioner Moman reported that her company is the contractor for the project. However, she does not work with the transportation section of the company and does not anticipate any conflict. T&ES staff Sandra Marks stated staff's recommendation to the Commission is Alternative B for the Potomac Yard Metrorail station. She indicated Alternative B is consistent with the 2008 City of Alexandria Transportation Master Plan and the 2010 North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan. Ms. Marks stated that alternative B provides maximum accessibility to the Metrorail station. The staff recommendation will be discussed at board, commission, and committee meetings throughout May. Alternative B enables full development of the mixed-use, transit-oriented vision for North Potomac Yard and maximizes potential office development within walking distance which is all critical to economic development in that small area plan. Potomac Yard Metro Project Manager, Lee Farmer, stated that Alternative B has potential impacts on the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). Alternative B requires GWMP land to realign tracks and the NPS currently administers an existing City easement along the parkway that would be traded. The National Park Service (NPS) required a net benefit agreement between the City and NPS, which includes a land exchange that results in the GWMP in better shape with the Metro Station than it would be without the Metro Station. Ms. Farmer indicated two construction access options are being evaluated. Option 1 includes driveways connecting to the GWMP. Option 2 excludes driveways connecting to the GWMP. Staff recommends Option 2. City Council will hold a public hearing on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers at Alexandria City Hall. The preferred alternative decision by City Council will be made on May 20, 2015. The complete Final Environmental Impact Statement expected in the Fourth Quarter of 2015 and the Record of Decision expected in the First Quarter of 2016.

After Commission discussions, the public hearing was opened. Citizen James Durham, Chair of the Alexandria and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), thanked Council members, Transportation Commissioners and staff for working together with City Council on the transportation budget items. He stated members of BPAC are excited about the prospect of the Metro Station especially the bicycle accessibility. He asked Commissioners to consider as major components of the Metro station design, bicycle pathways for those 60% of casual riders, that the

shared use paths have pavement markings to indicate bicycle and pedestrian lanes, and the Metro Station have safe and secure bicycle parking area with an abundance of bicycle racks.

The public hearing was closed, and Commissioner Anderson made a motion that the Transportation Commission endorses the staff recommendation to construct the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station using alternative B, using construction access option 2 that excludes driveways connecting to the GWMP. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wasowski, voted on and unanimously approved.

5. Oakville Triangle

T&ES staff Sandra Marks gave an update on the Oakville Triangle project. She indicated the transportation study of the project was approximately two-thirds completed. She stated that staff and the consultants continue to work with the community and will be conducting additional transportation analysis over the next month. Initial findings show that there are impacts at some existing intersections, especially at Route 1 and Reed Avenue, and Route 1 at E. Glebe Road. Staff is looking at additional east-west connectivity and intersection improvements that are needed to alleviate impacts of the proposed development. The results of the revised transportation analysis are currently scheduled to be presented to the Advisory Group on May 28, 2015, and a City Council Work Session is scheduled for June 23, 2015. A community Advisory Group was established to assist in developing plan principles for the site regarding potential land uses, open space, sustainability, transportation and connectivity, and potential community benefits, among other topics.

6. Complete Streets Update / Paving Program

T&ES staff Hillary Poole gave an update on Complete Streets and an outline of the paving program and provided an overview of Complete Street accomplishments over the past year. Ms. Poole also spoke about upcoming infrastructure projects and design projects to be completed on streets listed on the pavement resurfacing schedule during this summer's construction season. She stated next month Potomac Greens Drive will receive advisory bike lanes which will be the first of such in the area. These markings give bicyclists a space to ride, but are also available to motorists if space is needed to pass oncoming traffic.

7. Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP)

T&ES staff Sandra Marks reported the LRP Subcommittee of the Transportation Committee met for a work session and updated the current prioritization criteria that is applied to the LRP list. The LRP is an unconstrained list of all future transportation related capital projects, programs and studies identified in City plans and policies that have no identified funding source. Once projects receive partial or full funding, they are moved to the City's constrained Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Ms. Marks stated each year in May the Transportation Commission updates the LRP from projects adopted since the last update and additional projects not captured in the previous LRP. Projects to be added are Mt. Vernon at Four Mile Road, Mt. Vernon at Russell Road intersection improvements and DASH bus expansion. The Prince Street / Cameron Street Bicycle Facility was deleted from the list since it has been added to the FY 2016-2025 CIP. The LRP Project Prioritization Criteria and list of projects will be emailed to Commissioners, and Commissioners will rank the projects using the prioritization criteria. At the June meeting, staff will present the results of the Commission prioritization exercise and the Commission will further discuss project priorities.

8. Other Business

T&ES staff Sandra Marks stated that the summer meeting scheduled must be discussed as many will be taking July vacations.

Commissioner King inquired why the region does not have a dedicated WMATA funding stream. Councilman Lovain indicated most regions use a regional sales tax. Mayor Euille added many years ago regional sales tax revenue had been introduced and voted on by the State but failed. He also reported that he will be attending the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, DC. Their agenda is to lobby the White House and Capitol Hill for federal transportation funding.

Commissioner Wasowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.