



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

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Phone: 703.746.4025

Mayor Allison Silberberg and Members of City Council
Alexandria City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 23, 2016

Re: FY 2017-2026 Transportation Budget

Dear Mayor Silberberg and Members of City Council:

At its March 16, 2016 meeting, the Transportation Commission reviewed the City Manager's proposed FY 2017 Operating Budget and FY 2017- FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program. The Transportation Commission appreciates that the Manager's budget has considered and addressed many of the Commission's budget recommendations, which were documented in a letter to the Mayor and City Council dated October 22, 2015 (attached). However, two of the recommendations in our guidance letter have not been fully addressed:

- Maintain funding for highest priorities as determined by the Transportation Commission in the Transportation Improvement Program.
- Recognizing that regional transportation—including WMATA transit service—is a priority that should not fall on the transportation budget, the Council should explore opportunities to fund the regional transit needs beyond the City's transportation resources. The Commission requests the city honor the 2.2 cent reservation of the property tax to fund the city's transportation projects.

During the March 16 meeting, the Commission held a public hearing regarding the proposed budget and endorsed the following position:

- The Transportation Commission would like to express disappointment regarding the proposed level of funding for the City's Complete Streets program. This program is one of the most important budget items outside of public safety that saves lives and reduces injuries to our residents and visitors. The City Manager's proposed funding levels for the Complete Streets program (excluding staff salaries) are approximately \$500,000, significantly less than the approximately \$1.5 million that will be expended on Complete Streets in FY16.
- Contributions to WMATA's capital and operating expenses should be made using monies from other sources, such as the City's general fund rather than the City's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

- If additional resources become available, either through resources from additional tax revenues or by removing WMATA contributions from the City's TIP, the Transportation Commission supports applying the first \$1 million of these resources toward the City's Complete Streets Program. Any remaining resources should be used to fund priority projects listed in the City's Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP).

The Transportation Commission emphasizes that adequate funding for transportation projects not only supports the efficient movement of people and goods, but directly supports the City's economic health. This past year, the City Council has approved the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan and the Oakville Triangle / Route 1 Corridor Plan. Over the next two years, City Council will also take action on a number of forthcoming plans including the City's update to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, the Old Town North Small Area Plan, and the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan Amendment. Each of these plans includes priority multi-modal transportation investments needed to support the economic health of the City as well as provide a safe environment for our residents. Adequate funding for transportation is paramount to the successful implementation of these plans.

As evidence of the significant unfunded transportation needs facing the City, we are attaching in its entirety the Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP). Each year, the Transportation Commission is asked to review and prioritize each project on this list. Over the last two years, few projects have moved from the unfunded LRP to the funded CIP, and more projects have been added to the LRP as a result of newly-adopted plans. Identification of additional resources for infrastructure investment, including transportation, will help to fund our significant project backlog.

The Commission commends the Council on its ongoing commitment to funding multi-modal, sustainable transportation options in the City. We appreciate your consideration of the Commission's guidance on the proposed FY 2017 budget.

Sincerely,



J. J King III
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

Attachments:

- Memorandum from Transportation Commission, October 22, 2015
- 2015 Transportation Long Range Plan (Projects List)

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Alexandria Planning Commission
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES