



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

January 17, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Stephen Klejst, Vice-Chair Melissa McMahon, Commissioner Oscar Gonzalez, Commissioner Jake Jakubek, Commissioner Ryan Jones, Councilman Timothy Lovain, Commissioner Carolyn Schroeder.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann - T&ES, Ramiro Rios - T&ES, Quanice Lawson - T&ES.

Chair Stephen Klejst called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

1. Public Comment Period

Chair Klejst opened and closed the Public Comment Period with no comments from the public.

2. December 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Carolyn Schroeder requested an edit to be made on page 4, Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES) staff made the requested changes and included it in the docket. Commissioner Jake Jakubek made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Melissa McMahon and unanimously approved by the Commission.

3. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received updates on Funding, WMATA, FY 2019-28 Budget, Central Alexandria Traffic Study and the FY2019 Interdepartmental Long Range Work Plan.

Councilman Timothy Lovain asked T&ES staff for update on the Central Alexandria Traffic Study. Lovain noted the importance of this project to the Taylor Run area. Ramiro Rios, T&ES Principal Planner, reported that the project is currently ongoing, that staff had finalized data collection efforts, and that the final analysis would be provided in the next couple of months.

4. Commission Updates

Commissioner Jake Jakubek reported that the Eisenhower West-Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group would meet at Beatley Central Library on February 12, 2018. No agenda items have been provided yet. However, any transportation related issues will be reported at the next Transportation Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Melissa McMahon reported that she attended a Volunteer Core Orientation meeting for the Route-1 South Affordable Housing Strategy. McMahon stated that one of the core topics related to pedestrian and bicycle safety and accessibility across Route One.

Chairman Stephen Klejst reported that he attended the ATC Board of Directors meeting on January 11, 2018. During the meeting, members discussed a first look at the FY2019 Transit Development Plan (TDP). Klejst reported that the T.C. Williams student pilot program remains successful and is averaging over 1,000 rides a day during the weekday with no negative incidents reported. Ridership appears to have leveled off with a small percentage of ridership decrease.

Commissioner Carolyn Schroeder reported that the Environmental Policy Commission will hold its retreat at City Hall on February 3, 2018 to discuss the update to the Environmental Action Plan.

Councilman Timothy Lovain reported that the Transportation Planning Board met on January 17, 2018. The Board added a couple projects to the new visualize 2045 plan, which includes a National Capital Bicycle Trail and improved pedestrian and bicycle access to high capacity transit station including Metrorail stations. Lovain stated that the single most cost-effective thing we can do to promote transit-orientated development and increase Metrorail ridership is to improve sidewalks around metro stations that do not have them.

5. Calendar Year 2018 Transportation Commission Work Plan

Ramiro Rios, Principal Planner and Transportation Commission Liaison provided an overview of the CY 2018 Transportation Commission Work Plan. Rios stated that the objective of the exercise was to present the draft plan to the Commission and receive feedback from Commissioners and update accordingly.

Vice Chair McMahon asked if the Eisenhower West Implementation update would be provided by the Planning staff or the Transportation staff. Rios stated that all the updates will primarily focus on the transportation elements of each project and will be provided by the transportation staff. T&ES Division Chief, Christopher Ziemann added that the “written” updates noted on the work plan are essentially consent items and the “other” updates and guidance items will most likely provide a presentation update. Rios also stated that this work plan can be updated as needed. Rios explained that the main objective is to create a clear timeline of what updates will be needed throughout the year.

Rios stated that Transportation Master Plan Update will mainly focus on two chapters; the Streets and Smart Mobility/Technology components. Christopher Ziemann asked if Commissioner Ryan Jones is currently on that Taskforce. Commissioner Jones confirmed that he was on the taskforce, but his Transportation Commission term will expire soon, and he has chosen not to renew. Vice Chair McMahan asked if there should be action items included in this work plan. Christopher Ziemann responded that staff is currently working on the RFP and that the written update is intended to announce when the RFP is obligated and will not require an endorsement or action item until the next calendar year.

Commissioner Oscar Gonzalez asked how the Alexandria Transit Vision Study related to the Transportation Master Plan. T&ES staff explained that the Transportation Master Plan was adopted in 2008. Since then, the city has been updating one or two chapters every year. In 2018-2019, staff will focus on updating the Streets and Smart Mobility/Technology chapters. Transit staff will develop a very detailed Transit Vision Study, which will eventually provide the content necessary to update the Transit Chapter of the Transportation Master Plan.

Chairman Klejst asked if the commission can receive deliverables for the Transit Vision Study in advance to allow enough time for review. T&ES Staff stated that the written deliverables in February will be a brief overview of upcoming action items. Vice Chair McMahan asked about the timeline for the Alexandria Transit Vision Study to provide detailed deliverables regarding results from the study. Rios stated that their goal is to provide a detailed deliverable in October 2018 that will include data collection analysis and/or transit study results.

Rios stated that the Environmental Action Plan Update will be given in two phases, the first phase will not include transportation components. T&ES Staff plans to provide an update as the phase two begins at the end of this calendar year.

Vice Chair McMahan asked if the Transportation LRP-Unfunded Projects updates are going to be pushed up or pushed back as to coordinate her time out of the country. Rios stated that he will confer with his counterparts and provide the commission a final review date. McMahan asked for clarification on when the city budget is adopted. Ziemann stated that the budget is adopted in May of every calendar year. McMahan asked for staff to provide an additional update in March 2018 for the FY2019-2028 City Budget. Rios stated that T&ES staff will provide an official update on the 6 Year Plan/RSTP/CMAQ Funding requests and NVT A 70% Funding/Smart Scale updates in May 2018.

Vice Chair Melissa McMahan asked for staff to add a conversational update mid-year to the TDM Program to help familiarize the commission and community members with the process and allow for feedback. T&ES Staff will discuss with project managers and report back to the commission. McMahan also asked staff to provide a quarterly written update on the Vision Zero Action Plan Implementation. T&ES staff will provide consent item updates as requested. Christopher Ziemann stated that the Complete Streets update will provide a status update on funding and infrastructure projections throughout the year. Vice Chair McMahan suggested that staff consider

connecting the dots to highlight how Complete Streets and Vision Zero Projects overlap to help address issues that have been identified.

McMahon asked if the update could be moved to June or July 2018 to accommodate her absence. Rios stated the T&ES staff will provide an update on Capital Bikeshare expansion and Motorcoach Facility Implementation in March 2018 and again at the end of the year. Ziemann stated that the Motorcoach Implementation will be composed of three more recommendations, one of which designating loading zones for three months along Royal Street as a test.

Rios stated the intent to provide an update on Regional Projects and Plans in April 2018. Councilman Lovain mentioned that the I-66 and I-395 projects are expected to generate funds for transit projects and suggested that staff consider applying for grant opportunities.

Vice Chair McMahon requested to an update on Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety in the City Planning Studies to allow community members an opportunity to give feedback and observe how it impacts the totality of transportation. Commissioner Jake Jakubek requested staff add an update on the I-66 project to observe how it will impact transportation. Commissioner Ryan Jones asked if the Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation update will include the developmental efforts around the Metrorail Station such as the small area plans. Ziemann responded that it will probably not include small area plans but will focus on construction implementation.

Councilman Lovain requested that staff provide an update on enhanced mobility grants and TLC grants to illustrate when applications have been submitted. Commissioner Carolyn Schroeder requested staff add a status update on the purchase of DASH clean diesel buses. Chairman Klejst stated that he will share any information regarding the clean diesel bus purchase as it becomes available. Vice Chair McMahon requested that T&ES staff add an update to transportation planning around the schools illustrating initiatives and elements of coordination and what strategies staff used to address some of the hurdles. Councilman Lovain announced that the city will hold a Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Taskforce meeting at the Alexandria Renew Education Center on January 30, 2018 at 7:00pm.

6. Other Business

Christopher Ziemann announced that the Transportation Planning Division will welcome two new planners on January 22, 2018. Vice Chair McMahon asked for an organization chart to list what projects will be assigned to each planner. Chair Klejst thanked Commissioner Ryan Jones for his service and dedication to the Transportation Commission.

At 8:03 pm, Chair Klejst made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jakubek and unanimously approved by the Commission.