

**Alexandria Transportation Commission  
Annual Report  
July 2020 – June 2021**

**Summary of Accomplishments**

**The mission of the Transportation Commission includes to advocate and promote development of balanced transportation systems for the City of Alexandria, through oversight of the implementation of the Transportation Chapter of the City's adopted Master Plan. Within these guidelines, the Transportation Commission membership completed the following activities during its 2020/21 session.**

**Transportation Commission Policy and Membership Accomplishments**

- Membership remained steady through most of the year with a quorum achieved at all scheduled meetings.
- The Commission held successful virtual meetings with more members of the public in attendance than traditionally seen at in-person meetings.

**Coordination with other Boards**

- The Transportation Commission includes membership from the Planning Commission, the Traffic and Parking Board, the Environmental Policy Commission, the Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Working Group, and the DASH Board.
- At every Transportation Commission meeting, the Transportation Commission receives updates and reports back on Transportation Commission topics to their respective board. Through this means, the Transportation Commission reported on the Alexandria Mobility Plan initiative to solicit feedback from associated boards.
- A member of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, the Federation of Civic Associations, the West End Business Association, and the Chamber of Commerce also serve on the Alexandria Mobility Plan Advisory Committee, which also includes all members of the Transportation Commission.
- No formal policy changes have been made.

**Transportation Commission Member Activities**

- All members are serving on the Alexandria Mobility Plan Advisory Committee, which is overseeing the update to the City's 2008 Transportation Master Plan.
- Oscar Gonzales is serving on the ACPS Superintendent's Advisory Team for the High School Project
- Casey Kane is serving on the Beauregard Design Advisory Committee

**2020-2021 Accomplishments**

- See attachment 2

### **Goals for 2021-2022**

- Achieve Council adoption of the Alexandria Mobility Plan. In addition, the Transportation Commission will seek to make recommendations to Council or other boards to ensure that funding, implementation and plans are consistent with the updated Transportation Master Plan.
- Provide input into a new process for City consideration of transportation grants.
- Consider endorsements for transportation grants and weigh in on transportation components of other plans and the City budget.
- Establish a virtual meeting policy.
- Plan and hold a retreat.
- Hold a joint session with the Environmental Policy Commission.

### **Leadership**

- Officers for the 2020 calendar year were elected at the January 2020 meeting. Melissa McMahon was elected as chair and Jake Jakubek was elected as Vice-Chair. Oscar Gonzales was elected Vice-Chair in September 2020 after the resignation of Commissioner Jake Jakubek in June 2020. Officers for the 2021 calendar year were elected at the January 2021 meeting. Melissa McMahon was elected as chair and Oscar Gonzales was elected as Vice-Chair.
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed.
  - Bill Pugh appointed in November 2020
  - Alyia Gaskins resigned in December 2020
  - Jeremy Drislane appointed in January 2021
  - Jeffrey Bennett resigned in June 2021
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
  - Councilman Canek Aguirre
  - John Chapman
  - Jeff Bennett
  - Larry Chambers
  - Jeremy Drislane
  - Alyia Gaskins
  - John Goebel
  - Oscar Gonzalez
  - Casey Kane
  - Bruce Marsh
  - Melissa McMahon
  - Bill Pugh
- Jennifer Slesinger, Transportation & Environmental Services acted as the staff liaison to Transportation Commission during the 2020/2021 year.

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1: Annual Attendance Report

Attachment 2: FY21 Accomplishments Summary

Attachment 3: Notable Letters:

1. Any notable letters to City Council, date, subject

- Endorsed CMAQ and RSTP Funding Request – September 2020
- Endorsed I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant – December 2020
- Endorsed DRPT Operating and Capital Assistance State Aid Applications and the Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant Applications – December 2020
- Endorsed NVT A 70% Discretionary Grant, Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program, and Revenue Sharing Program – June 2021
- Provided Feedback on the Return to In-Person Meetings and Endorsed a Virtual Meeting Policy – June 2021

2. Any letters to other Advisory Groups, date, subject

- ATC Transit Development Plan Endorsement to the ATC Board – April 2021

3. Any completed reports or relevant documents

- Transportation Long Range Plan – December 2020
- Draft Alexandria Mobility Plan – March 2021

**APPENDIX F.  
ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT TEMPLATE**

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
[ADVISORY GROUP NAME]  
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

**JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021**

**CHAIRPERSON: MELISSA MCMAHON**

<b>MEMBER'S NAME</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
CANEK AGUIRRE			E	X	E	E	E	X	E	X	E	E
JOHN CHAPMAN			E	E	X	X	E	E	E	E	E	X
JEFF BENNETT			X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	E
LARRY CHAMBERS			X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	E	E
JEREMY DRISLANE								X	X	X	X	E
ALYIA GASKINS			X	X	X	X						
JOHN GOEBEL			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
OSCAR GONZALEZ			X	X	X	X	E	E	X	E	X	X
CASEY KANE			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
BRUCE MARSH			X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X
MELISSA MCMAHON			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
BILL PUGH			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT**


**E - FOR EXCUSED**

**U - FOR UNEXCUSED**

**LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:**

- Oscar Gonzalez
- Larry Chambers

**FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON**

(APPROVED)  (Chairperson)  
Melissa McMahon

**Attachment 2 – Transportation Commission Major Initiatives in FY 2021**

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
Alexandria Mobility Plan	The Transportation Commission served on the Advisory Committee for the Alexandria Mobility Plan and provided guidance on the plan development.	Ongoing
Grant Endorsements	<p>The Transportation Commission regularly reviewed and endorsed grant applications for Council approval as being consistent with the Transportation Master Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan, including for the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality / Regional Surface Transportation Program</b></li> <li>- <b>NOVA 70% Discretionary Grant</b></li> <li>- <b>I-395 Commuter Choice Grant</b></li> <li>- <b>DRPT State Aid Grant and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance Grant</b></li> </ul> <p>These grant applications included funding for DASH service enhancements, a Route 1 Metroway Extension, and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements.</p>	Ongoing
Transportation Updates	Throughout the year, the Commission received updates on the progress of plan implementation and other major events impacting transportation in the City including the WMATA budget, the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Readiness Strategy, Parking Technology, the Alexandria Mobility Plan, the City’s Operation and Capital Improvement Program Budgets, and the DASH Transit Development Plan.	Ongoing
Transportation Long Range Plan (Unconstrained/Unfunded Projects List)	The Commission updated the Transportation Long Range Plan. They held a work session in September to review the projects and scoring criteria, reviewed draft evaluation scores of the in October and held a public hearing and approved the 2020 LRP in December 2020.	October 2020 – December 2020
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Readiness Strategy	The Transportation Commission provided feedback on the Draft Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Readiness Strategy.	October 2020

WMATA Budget	Staff provided an update to the Commission on the status of WMATA's FY22 Budget and the Commission provided feedback.	February 2021
Alexandria Mobility Plan – public hearing	The Transportation Commission held a public hearing for the draft Alexandria Mobility Plan.	April 2021
FY22 City Operating Budget and FY22-31 Capital Improvement Program	The Transportation Commission held a public hearing and provided input to the City Manager on the proposed transportation related budget items in the City Manager's budget.	March, April 2021
Landmark Mall Redevelopment CDD Concept Plan	Staff presented the Landmark Mall CDD Concept plan and the Transportation Commission provided feedback on the transportation, pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and traffic related elements.	May 2021
Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area Plan Update	Staff presented an update on the Arlandria-Chirilagua Plan process and Transportation Commission provided feedback on the process and transportation priorities.	May 2021
Virtual Meeting Policy Consideration	The Transportation Commission submitted a letter to Council concerning the need for appropriate technology to support a virtual meeting policy.	June 2021
Dockless Mobility Pilot Program	Staff provided an update on the Dockless Mobility Pilot Program and the Transportation Commission provided input on future program requirements.	June 2021

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2020  
TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES  
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 – 2020 TRANSPORTATION LONG RANGE PLAN

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**ISSUE:** 2020 update to the Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP)

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission hold a public hearing and approve the 2020 LRP update.

**BACKGROUND:** As part of its responsibility to develop and maintain a comprehensive LRP that identifies the City’s long-range transportation needs, the Commission first adopted an LRP in April 2010. The LRP is an unconstrained list of all transportation related capital projects and studies identified in City plans and policies. Projects on the LRP have no identified funding source. Once projects on the LRP receive partial or full funding, they are moved from the unconstrained LRP to the City’s constrained Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Every two years, the Commission updates the LRP transportation projects and studies from plans adopted since the last update. Additional projects and studies not captured in the previous LRP may be added and projects and studies no longer relevant may be removed if they have been completed or funded in the City’s CIP. City staff refer to the LRP when there are calls for grant funded projects and consider the projects against the grant evaluation criteria to determine which might be good candidates for funding.

**DISCUSSION:** The 2020 LRP update includes changes based on the guidance provided by the Commission at its fall work sessions including a number of projects and studies that have been removed, consolidated or moved to a new developer contingent list.

Several plan updates have been approved since the 2018 LRP including Eisenhower East, Landmark/Van Dorn, and the South Patrick Street Housing Affordability Study. These plans recommended transportation projects and studies that are currently unfunded and have been added to the 2020 LRP. They have been organized in a manner consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission.

At the September 18, 2020 Commission work session, staff provided an overview of the draft 2020 LRP project list, developer contingent list and studies list. Before the October

Transportation Commission meeting, Commissioners individually reviewed the draft 2020 LRP, and prioritized the projects using the criteria discussed during the September meeting. On October 21, 2020 the Commission had a fruitful discussion over the results of the individual prioritization exercise that resulted in minor adjustments. At the November meeting, Commissioners reviewed the revised scores and agreed to shift an additional project from the developer list to the prioritized project list: the I-395 Bike/Ped Bridge to the Landmark Mall site due to the need for City funding for the project. Commission members subsequently scored this project. The final scores can be found in Attachment 1. The final prioritized project list, developer list, and studies list are available in Attachments 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 2020 LRP – Project Scores
2. Final 2020 LRP Project Prioritization List
3. Final 2020 LRP – Developer Contingent Project List
4. Final 2020 LRP – Studies List





Alexandria Transportation Commission  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

[www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov)

Honorable Mayor Justin Wilson and Members of City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

December 16, 2020

Re: Endorsement of Application for I-395/95 Commuter Choice (Round Two) Grant

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its December 16, 2020 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse two I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant applications, which will be brought to Council on January 12, 2021. The proposals seek a total of \$10,990,000 over a two-year period for service enhancements on two DASH routes in the new 2022 Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan that provide important transit connections for the West End.

The proposed top priority project, “DASH West End – Pentagon Bus Service Enhancements”, would provide weekday, Saturday, and Sunday service enhancements for the new DASH “Line 35”. This route replaces the existing AT-1 Plus DASH route in West Alexandria with an extension up to the Pentagon. This project will build on pre-pandemic AT-1 Plus ridership increases along the planned West End Transitway corridor, maintain a potential future source of operations funding for the transitway, and support the implementation of the 2022 ATV Plan. Total project cost for FY 2022 – 2023 is \$6,810,000.

The second-priority project, “DASH West End – Potomac Yard Bus Service Enhancements”, proposes weekday, Saturday, and Sunday service enhancements for “Line 36”, which replaces the existing AT-9 DASH route. “Line 39” provides service to key destinations along the I-395 corridor including the Mark Center, Shirlington, Arlandria, and the future Potomac Yard Metro Station. The proposed service enhancements will increase service along this corridor so that it runs every 15 minutes, all-day, seven days each week, as outlined by the 2022 ATV Plan. The total two-year cost of the project is \$4,180,000.

The Commission recommends that Council support these grant requests.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon  
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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



Alexandria Transportation Commission  
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
December 16, 2020

Re: Endorsement of the FY2022 DRPT Operating and Capital Assistance State Aid Applications and the Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant Applications and Approval of Required Matching Funds.

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its December 16, 2020 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff recommended requests for FY 2022 Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) operating and capital assistance, and FY 2022 Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant application and approved the required matching funds:

**DRPT Operating Assistance**

- Up to \$23,800,000, the City's eligible operating expenses for FY 2022

**DRPT Capital Assistance**

- Up to \$8,840,000 to buy eight electric buses

**Commuter Assistance Program**

- Up to \$220,000 to fund two staff and programming. This requires a \$44,000 local match. This is a decrease of \$14,480 decrease from the FY 2021 request.

These requests support the goals of the City's Transportation Master Plan. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for the FY 2022 DRPT Grant request formulated to procure DRPT operating and capital funds and the FY 2022 Commuter Assistance Program grant request.

May you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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



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Chairman David Kaplan  
Alexandria Transit Company (DASH)  
3000 Business Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22314

April 21, 2021

Re: Endorsement of FY 2022 – 2027 ATC (DASH) Transit Development Plan

Dear Chairman Kaplan and Members of the ATC Board of Directors:

At its April 21, 2021 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to provide this letter of endorsement in support of the proposed FY 2022 – FY 2027 ATC Transit Development Plan, which is being brought before the ATC Board of Directors later this spring.

The proposed FY 2022 – FY 2027 Transit Development Plan (TDP) will be an important step towards the realization of the Alexandria Transit Vision Plan. The implementation of the New DASH Network in September 2021 will provide major improvements to transit access for city residents, especially for those that are able to benefit from the new “frequent, all-day” bus network. We are particularly supportive of the increases in access to frequent bus service that will be afforded to lower income residents and communities of color, and we strongly support adding all-day frequent service as soon as possible to the Duke Street corridor, home to thousands of additional low-income and minority residents.

The TDP is consistent with the Transportation Master Plan and the principles outlined in the draft Alexandria Mobility Plan. The Commission supports the proposed FY 2022 – FY 2027 Transit Development Plan with the New DASH Network and looks forward to the continued implementation of the Alexandria Transit Vision Plan.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon  
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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



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Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council  
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June 23, 2021

Re: Endorsement of grant applications for: FY2026 – 2027 NVTA 70% Discretionary Grant; FY 2023-2024 VDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program; FY2027-2028 Revenue Sharing Program

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its June 16, 2021 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to provide this letter of endorsement in support of the following proposed grant applications:

- FY 2026 – FY 2027 NVTA 70% Discretionary Grant – Up to \$10 million toward the Route 1 Metroway Extension to Evans Lane. This is a critical investment supporting the evolution of North Potomac Yard.
- FY 2023 – FY 2024 VDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program – Up to \$2 million toward Safe Routes to School Pedestrian Improvements (requiring 20% local match). These were needs identified in walk audits from past years.
- FY 2027 – FY 2028 VDOT Revenue Sharing Program – Up to \$5 million toward resurfacing projects and maintenance of the Van Dorn Street Bridge over Duke Street (requiring 50% local match).

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for these important grant programs. These recommended projects are consistent with the Transportation Master Plan and will help to make Alexandria a more sustainable, accessible, and safe city.

Sincerely,

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



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Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

September 16, 2020

Re: Endorsement of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvements (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Project Funding Request for F Y2027

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its September 16, 2020 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the CMAQ and RSTP Project Funding Request for FY2027, for a total of \$4.5 million. We enthusiastically support funding for multi-modal transportation projects which have many goals, including reducing air pollutants in nonattainment areas such as the Washington region. The City's request for FY 2027 includes funding for Duke Street Transitway Operations and Smart Mobility initiatives as outlined in the following table:

FY27 CMAQ/RSTP Proposed Program

Project Name	FY27
Duke Street Transitway Operations	\$3,500,000
Smart Mobility Implementation	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$4,500,000

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for the CMAQ/RSTP programs, as well as providing the consideration of its endorsement by Council.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon  
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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



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Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council  
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June 23, 2021

Re: Feedback on the Schedule for Return to In-Person Meetings

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its June 16, 2021 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted unanimously to provide this letter with feedback regarding the City's plans for returning to in-person meetings.

We are concerned the City is requiring a return to in-person meetings without the technology needed to continue the practices instituted during the pandemic emergency which have made it easier for members of the community, the commission, and staff to participate in our public process. While not all community members have internet or computer access, in many instances the availability of meetings on Zoom has resulted in greater attendance, and the barriers to contributing public comment have been fewer. We also suspect that specialty staff availability for our meetings is increased by their option to present and attend remotely rather than set aside yet another long evening at work waiting for their presentation slot in the meeting. The Transportation Commission values every opportunity to expand community involvement in our discussions and deliberations, and fears that a sudden return to in-person meetings without supporting technology will reduce our inclusiveness and effectiveness.

Based on the best available information from staff, no meeting room other than Council Chambers will be equipped in time for meetings in the fall. Implementation of the electronic meeting policy, which is intended to facilitate remote attendance of a minority of commissioners on an emergency basis, is not feasible if commissioners must participate through a conference call phone connection. Our preference would be for the City to delay the transition back to in-person until such time as more rooms are equipped with proper technology for hybrid meetings. If delay is not possible, please consider allocating additional staff and financial resources to accelerating the installation of the required technology. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa McMahon".

Melissa McMahon

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

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