

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 16, 2018

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 6 – PROPOSED APPLICATIONS FOR FY18 BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) TRANSPORTATION DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of the City of Alexandria’s proposed application for the USDOT FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program

**RECOMMENDATION:** Transportation Commission endorses the proposed application for the USDOT FY 2018 BUILD Program

**BACKGROUND:** The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 appropriated \$1.5 billion to be awarded by the Department of Transportation (DOT) for National Infrastructure Investments. This appropriation stems from the program funded and implemented pursuant to the American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This program was previously known as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER Discretionary Grants) program and is now known as the **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development or (BUILD)** Transportation Discretionary Grants Transportation program.

Funds for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation program are awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. For this round of BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$150 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the FY 2018 Appropriations Act. Act allows up to \$15 million for the planning, preparation or design of projects eligible for BUILD transportation funds. FY 2018 BUILD program will give special consideration to projects located in rural areas.

The following factors will be used to score submitted projects: merit criteria, project readiness, benefit cost-analysis, and submission dates and times. DOT reviews all applications received by the deadline and rates projects based on how well the projects align with the selection criteria.

After applications are submitted on July 19, 2018, staff from DOT will screen candidate projects to determine if they qualify to be scored. Selected projects will be scored in Fall 2018. The FY 2018 Appropriations Act mandates that BUILD Transportation grants be awarded by December 18, 2018.

**DISCUSSION:** Staff has developed the following list of projects based on the guidelines and criteria outlined in the BUILD funding announcement.

**West End Transitway Corridor Investments – Up to \$25,000,000**

This project will design and construct essential elements of the West End Transitway, a BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) service providing high capacity, frequent transit service between the Van Dorn Metrorail station and the Pentagon. The service will connect major employment, residential, and transit hubs to the regional Metrorail system. The funding request will leverage approved SMART SCALE funds and pending NVTA (Northern Virginia Transportation Authority) funds.

*Note: The scope and funding amount for the West End Transitway project is subject to change, dependent on the amount of funding awarded by the NVTA (Northern Virginia Transportation Authority). The NVTA is scheduled to adopt its FY18-23 Six Year Program in June 2018.*

**Duke Street Transitway – Alternatives Analysis & Environmental Documentation – \$2,000,000**

This project will fund an Alternatives Analysis (AA) study and develop the appropriate level of Environmental Documentation, likely a Documented Categorical Exclusion (CE). These two documents are required pre-requisites for future Federal funding.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The funding provided through BUILD requires a 20 percent local match. Per the FY 2018 Appropriation Act, BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants may be used for up to 80 percent of a project located in an urban area. Non-federal sources include State funds originating from programs funded by State revenue, local funds originating from State or local revenue-funded programs, or private funds.

To meet match requirements, the Projects proposed for submission will require \$6 million (West End Transitway) and \$500,000 (Duke Street Transitway) respectively. It is anticipated that the local match for the West End Transitway will be NVTA 70% funds.