



# City of Alexandria

## Transportation Commission

### Regular Meeting

March 4, 2009  
7:30 p.m.  
City Hall, Room 1101

### MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chairman Sean Kumar, Mayor William D. Euille, Councilman Timothy Lovain, J. Lawrence Robinson, Jayme Blakesley, Kevin Posey, Jennifer Mitchell, Donna Fossum,

Others Present: Mark Jinks, City Manager's Office, Tom Culpepper, T&ES, Yon Lambert, T&ES, Sandra Marks, T&ES, Karl Moritz, P&Z, Pat Mann, P&Z, Joanne Lepanto, Seminary Hill Association, William A. Newman, Hamptons at Stonegate, Charlotte Landis, ICCA, Geoffrey M. Goodale, Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association, Patricia Schubert, ICCA, Annabelle Fisher, Andres Domeyko, Eisenhower Partnership

#### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting were presented by Chairman Kumar who asked for any added comments to the minutes. There being none, Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Commissioner Fossum. The February 4, 2009 minutes were approved 8-0.

#### 2. Consideration of Comments to the Virginia Department of Transportation on the I-95/395 HOV/Bus/HOT Lanes Project (**Public Hearing**)

Tom Culpepper, T&ES staff, provided a presentation of VDOT's project to implement high-occupancy vehicle/toll (HOT)/bus lanes on I-95 and I-395.

Mr. Culpepper described the interchange as an opportunity for the City to submit the Commission's comments to VDOT. The project is a 56 miles project that extends from Eads Street in Arlington County to Spotsylvania County. It is broken up into 2

sections; from Eads Street to south of Dumfries, and from Dumfries to further south. This project would convert the existing HOV system to a 3-lane system. It would also allow vehicles that do not meet the existing HOV requirements pay a toll. Currently, the project has completed the environmental review process of the northern section in January 2009. A regional transit study was completed. A bus rapid transit study has also been initiated and scheduled to be completed in spring 2009. Construction of the project is slated for late 2009 or early 2010 for the northern section. Of concern to some jurisdictions are the cross sections. In Alexandria, there will be a standard 12-foot lane in the center and two 11-foot lanes. The shoulder widths in Alexandria will be 2 ½ feet and 10 feet. Between Seminary Road and Shirlington, all three lanes will be 11-foot wide with shoulders 3-9 feet. Commissioners questioned the safety of the narrow lanes and shoulders and access for emergency vehicle responders.

The City is on record as being opposed to the HOV access at Seminary Road and Duke Street and as a result adopted Resolution 2048. Arlington County is withholding their support of the HOT lanes awaiting answers to their questions to VDOT for additional information and clarification. Prince William County is opposed to the VDOT project and Fairfax County has voiced their concerns of the project as well.

The Chairman introduced two citizens who requested time to speak at the Transportation Commission's public hearing. Comments were made by Geoffrey Goodale, President of the Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association and Joanne Lepanto, President of Seminary Hills Association.

Following the public hearing, there was discussion among commissioners. Issues were raised by commissioners including: design, neighborhood impacts, emergency access, and bus service operation. Tom Culpepper invited Commissioner Blakesley to assist in drafting a letter to be considered by Council. Commissioner Posey made a motion to recommend that the City Council withhold support for the project unless issues identified by staff and the community are addressed. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

### 3. Federal Economic Stimulus Package

Item deferred

### 4. Subcommittee Updates

Sandra Marks, T&ES staff, reported work was done by two sub-committees established to look at process and prioritization for the Long Range Plan (LRP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Marks summarized the discussions that took place in each sub-committee.

Commissioners Mitchell and Kumar felt it was valuable for the public to have a chance early in the process to give input to the Commission. The Commission will

also look at the best way to give input on transportation recommendations in small area plans. In coordination with the Planning Department staff will ensure that information is shared early enough in the small area plan process for the Commission to give formal guidance to the Planning staff and Planning Commission

The sub-committee members felt it was important to start the process with a clean slate of projects so that the list being maintained is a truly prioritized and endorsed list. Staff will recommend projects to be removed from the list for consideration by the Commission. A proposed timeline for annual TIP process was presented with milestones working backwards from September.

Commissioner Posey added that the LRP can be summarized into questions of livability, control, connectivity, environment and alternatives. The TIP has issues of funding to be considered, what conditions have changed, and maintenance issues. The Commission will give feedback on the draft criteria proposed by the sub-committee.

5. Other Business: Mayor Euille reported on the recent Metro Board meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Fossum, seconded by Commissioner Blakesly.