

## **Draft Short-term Actions for EAP Cafe: Updated (2018) below Original (2009) Goals.**

### **Topic: Transportation**

**Goal 1:** Move aggressively toward a culture of city streets that puts “people first” by implementing development and transportation projects consistent with the following level of precedence: pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, shared motor vehicles, and private motor vehicles.

- In 2017 the City adopted the Vision Zero policy and Action Plan to reduce vehicle-related deaths to zero (0) by 2028.
- Updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Chapter in the Transportation Master Plan (2016) to create the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan
- The City has secured CMAQ/RSTP funding to invest in several priority infrastructure projects related to Non-motorized Transportation, road and bridge infrastructure and public transportation improvements.
- Currently Holmes Run Greenway improvements are under construction and the City is working on designs for Old Cameron Run and Backlick Run Multi-use paths
- In 2016, a resolution adopting the principles of Complete Streets (as recommended by the Transportation Master Plan) was passed.
- The City has continued to improve facilities for cyclists by
  - Adding important bikeway projects and performing basic maintenance on multi-use paths
  - Implementing the Capital Bikesharing program and adding 31 stations in the City.
  - Increasing bike parking, especially near transit stations as outlined in the Transportation Master Plan.
- The City has aggressively added sidewalks around the City in order to improve walking safety, adhere to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations and provide accessibility for all Alexandrians.

**Goal 2:** Educate individuals and organizations on the availability of transportation alternatives that will reduce dependency on single occupancy vehicles.

- The City has continued to expand information and educational programs, such as:
  - Transportation Demand Management (TDM) workshops and events through GoAlex
- The City has continued to implement Transportation Management Plans to promote alternative transportation modes

**Goal 3:** Improve and expand an integrated rapid transportation system that includes intercity passenger rail, heavy rail, trolleys, streetcars, and buses.

- The City has continued to improve transit options by:
  - Continuing implementation of Transit Signal Priority and other transit information technologies
  - Conducting Feasibility Studies and Design of three (3) high capacity transit corridors

- Implementation of bicycle racks in DASH buses
- Implementing low-carbon technologies in DASH buses by replacing its fleet with cleaner diesel and diesel-electric hybrid vehicles
- The City is currently developing a Transit Vision study that will assess the current supply and demand for transit services and propose transit service improvements to accommodate current and future demand.
- The City has implemented 31 Bikeshare stations to date and is planning to add 10 more stations in the short-medium term. Bicycle sharing dramatically improves issues related to first and last-mile connectivity.

**Goal 4:** Develop a citywide environmentally sustainable comprehensive parking strategy.

- The City requires large employers to implement Transportation Management Plans
- In 2015 and 2018, the City updated the multifamily residential and commercial parking requirements to be more consistent with the current demand for parking at these uses.

## Environmental Policy Commission Proposed Environmental Action Plan Updates Café 2018

**Topic/s:** Transportation & Climate Change

**Accountable City Departments:** DASH, Transportation & Environmental Services.

**Goal:** Decarbonize the City's transportation fleets

**Target:** By 2025, DASH will only procure zero-emission buses.

### Short Term Actions:

1. By 2019, DASH will complete a feasibility study<sup>1</sup> with consultant support that will project the life cycle costs and benefits of transitioning the DASH fleet to all electric or other zero emission buses by 2030, and outline a procurement transition plan.
2. By 2020, DASH will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) from zero emission bus manufacturers to better understand their capabilities, financing approaches, and applicability to Alexandria.
3. By 2021, DASH will have an active electric or other zero emission bus pilot program in place with 6 or more such buses in active service.

**Implementation Assessment:** The City's ability to implement these recommendations is "HIGH" since the City has full budgetary and policy control over DASH. The main constraint would be budgetary (e.g. an initial feasibility study would cost \$75,000-\$150,000.)

### Justification:

1. *Existing City goals are out of date given technological advances in zero emission bus technology.* The original EAP included a mid-term (2012-2020) action to "develop a DASH policy that requires all new buses to be low emission, hybrid, or CNG vehicles." The City's 2011 Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) cited DASH's hybrid bus purchases as a case in which the City was leading by example to "accelerate the goal of reducing fossil fuel use, greenhouse gas and particulate matter emissions, and environmental noise pollution."<sup>2</sup> Neither the EAP or CCAP contemplated new electric bus technology.
2. *It is consistent with the City's commitment to addressing climate change.* By signing onto the Mayor's National Climate Action Agreement (MNCAA) in 2017, Alexandria committed to "intensify efforts to meet [its] current climate goals."<sup>3</sup> Accelerating electrification of the DASH fleet is a means by which the City can follow through meaningfully on this commitment.
3. *DASH's Board has already publicly committed to transition to an all electric fleet as soon as "technologically and financially possible."* These recommendations would codify DASH's intent.

### What Other Jurisdictions are Doing:

- In October 2017, 12 major cities around the world, including Seattle and Los Angeles, committed to buying only zero emission buses starting in 2025.<sup>4</sup>
- Chicago has two electric buses in service and announced in October 2017 that it is actively accepting proposals for 45 electric buses and charging infrastructure.<sup>5</sup>
- Locally, both Tacoma Park and Howard County, Maryland<sup>6</sup> have initiated procurement of electric buses as has Hampton Roads Transit in Virginia.<sup>7</sup>
- Shenzhen, China has more than 16,000 electric buses in active service.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See feasibility study done for King County, Washington:

[https://kingcounty.gov/~media/elected/executive/constantine/news/documents/Zero\\_Emission\\_Fleet.ashx?la=e](https://kingcounty.gov/~media/elected/executive/constantine/news/documents/Zero_Emission_Fleet.ashx?la=e)

<sup>2</sup> City of Alexandria Energy and Climate Change Action Plan, p.41 (2011)

<sup>3</sup> 382 US Climate Mayors commit to adopt, honor and uphold Paris Climate Agreement goals. <http://climatemayors.org/actions/paris-climate-agreement/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.c40.org/other/fossil-fuel-free-streets-declaration>

<sup>5</sup> <http://midwestenergynews.com/2018/01/04/chicago-seeks-to-expand-its-electric-bus-fleet/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.balTIMOREsun.com/news/maryland/howard/ellcott-city/ph-ho-cf-electric-buses-0727-20170725-story.html>

<sup>7</sup> [https://pilotonline.com/news/local/transportation/article\\_9a67792c-228f-56d8-bd74-8861ad2bf040.html](https://pilotonline.com/news/local/transportation/article_9a67792c-228f-56d8-bd74-8861ad2bf040.html)

<sup>8</sup> <https://qz.com/1169690/shenzhen-in-china-has-16359-electric-buses-more-than-americas-biggest-citys-conventional-bus-fleet/>

