

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2014

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: T&ES STAFF

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 2 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various ongoing projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. FUNDING UPDATE

Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) and Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) continued to hold meetings with regional partners in December to review substantive issues regarding the WMATA Capital Funding Agreement to fund WMATA capital activities from FY 2016 through FY 2021. Meetings among the jurisdictional partners will be scheduled weekly to develop this agreement. WMATA provided a budget submission at its meeting of December 4, 2014. WMATA made serious modifications to the request for Metro 2025 funds. The following table summarizes the current proposal. For the May estimate, WMATA did not provide an estimate for FY 2021.

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	Total
May, 2014 Estimate	\$166.6 million	\$285.0 million	\$295.6 million	\$315.6 million	\$269.3 million	—————	\$1,332.1 million
December, 2014 Estimate	\$77.4 million	\$183.9 million	\$171.8 million	\$316.3 million	\$301.5 million	\$282.9 million	\$1,333.8 million

This table illustrates that the proposed request has been pushed significantly to the future. The request for FY 2016 is very similar to the \$75 million pledged by the region in FY 2015. WMATA also revealed its proposed operating budget for FY 2016. The budget highlighted the fact that while WMATA personnel costs are increasing over 4% this year, in accordance with a labor contract, ridership and revenues are decreasing, resulting in a subsidy increase of 13.3%. This would result in an increase in WMATA’s operating subsidy from Alexandria from \$31 million/year to \$35 million.

On October 14, 2014, City Council approved a resolution to accept some of the

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) regional transportation 70 percent funds awarded in FY 2014. This application was considered by the NVTA Board on December 11, 2014. NVTA is evaluating all projects proposed with the evaluation methodology approved on October 9, 2014. Due to a longer time required for the HB 599 project evaluations of highway and ITS projects, the initial results will be reported at the NVTA Project Implementation Working Group on January 12, 2015, and considered by the NVTA Board at their meeting in February, 2015.

VDOT and its consultants have met with jurisdictions, including Alexandria, to review the evaluations which the HB599 study will be providing for highway and ITS projects submitted for the NVTA FY2015-FY2016 transportation program.

B. METROWAY (ROUTE 1)

Metroway service continues between the Braddock Road and Crystal City Metrorail stations and ridership remains strong with daily ridership now at 60 percent above the average daily ridership on the 9S route, which Metroway replaced. Ridership in the first week of December was over 1,600 per day. Staff is continuing to work on implementing additional elements including real-time bus arrival information and off-board fare collection. Phase 2 of the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway is scheduled to open next spring when the dedicated lanes from the Arlington County line to the Crystal City Metrorail Station are complete.

Background: During the first round of TIGER grants, the City received \$8.5 million to design and construct the Route 1 Transitway between Monroe Avenue and East Glebe Road. The City compiled additional grant funding and \$5.2 million in local funding to design/construct various elements of the Transitway project. The total cost of the Transitway including vehicles is approximately \$20 million.

For more information on the Route 1 Transitway project please see visit:
<http://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=58644>

C. WEST END TRANSITWAY (WET)

The Project Team is continuing the technical work leading up to the Alternatives Analysis Report and Environmental Assessment documentation. The ongoing work includes refinement of 2015 and 2035 ridership projections, traffic impacts for all three alternatives in 2015 and 2035, transit service planning, updating capital and operating costs, and coordination with internal and external stakeholders.

In 2015, City Council will be selecting a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station and the West End Transitway. Based on City staff availability and adherence to City and federal processes, City Council is planning to select a LPA for the Potomac Yard Metrorail station in Spring 2015 and select a LPA for the West End Transitway in Fall 2015. By spreading out the LPA selection process, each major transit project will have time dedicated to debate, discussion, and decision making.

Once the updated project schedule is available, Staff will share it with the Transportation Commission.

Background: In December 2013, the City kicked off an Alternatives Analysis / Environmental Assessment (AA/EA) for the West End Transitway (also referred to as Corridor C) as part of the Federal NEPA Process. The AA/EA will analyze and refine the alignment as defined by the CWG and City Council and to identify any impacts and potential mitigation associated with the recommended alternative. The study is partially funded by a grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and is the first step towards applying for a federal Small Starts grant for project design and construction.

For more information on the West End Transitway, please visit:
<http://www.alexandriava.gov/westendtransitway>

D. OLD TOWN AREA PARKING STUDY

To build upon accomplishments of the 2012 Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) Work Group, and to be responsive to the Waterfront Small Area Plan planning studies and development proposals, the OTAPS Work Group will reconvene in January 2015 and is expected to conclude no later than spring 2015. The OTAPS Work Group will review the recently collected parking utilization data as well as follow up on the 2012 recommendations pertaining to the Waterfront Small Area Plan, the City's Residential Parking Permit policy, and explore modifications to parking meter time limits.

Background: The Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) Work Group was formed to develop consensus on strategies identified by the Waterfront Small Area Plan and recommendations from the 2009 Old Town Area Parking Study. The final 2012 OTAPS report was submitted to Council in February 2013, and reports are posted online at alexandriava.gov/ParkingStudies.