



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

March 18, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mayor William Euille, Scott Anderson, Christine Michaelis, Annika Moman, Jake Jakubek, Jerry King, Stephen Klejst, James Lewis, Nathan Macek and Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Carrie Beach – P&Z, Karen Callaham – T&ES, Brandi Collins – P&Z, Allan Fye – T&ES, Pierre Holloman – T&ES, Yon Lambert – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Raymond Mui – DASH, Ramond Robinson – T&ES, Carrie Sanders – T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. February 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chair Macek called the meeting to order and asked if there were any edits to the February 18, 2015 minutes. Chair Macek also offered edits to upcoming City budget public hearing dates that had changed. Commissioner Wasowski inquired as to why her request for the Eisenhower West Plan to be placed on an upcoming Transportation Commission agenda was not in the minutes. Staff agreed to edit the minutes to reflect those changes. Chair Macek stated his concern is that citizen oversight should occur at the City level before WMATA concepts of schedule changes are formalized. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Klejst, voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.

2. Updates To Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received updates on the funding of various ongoing projects, the Route 1 Metroway, the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, the West End Transitway, DASH Transit Development Plan, Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group, and the Oakville Triangle Small Area Plan. Commissioner Anderson inquired about an extra station shown on the Metroway map in Alexandria. Staff indicated it was a future station and would make a request that the map reflect it as such. Commissioner Michaelis asked that since WMATA is not spending capital funds at the rate it projected and \$20 million was removed from their capital request for FY 2016, will the City's contribution to WMATA decrease. T&ES Transit Division Chief Ramond Robinson answered that this is currently under review by City and WMATA staff. T&ES staff, Allan Fye, provided an overview of the proposed slip lane at Van Dorn Street at S. Pickett Street. He noted that the City does not have an official policy on slip lanes, but that the City tries to

remove them when possible. As part of the West End Transitway project, it was recommended to add the pedestrian refuge due to the widened length of Van Dorn Street. To respond to public input, the project team is recommending the future slip lane be modified to a more urban condition with a stop sign at the intersection. T&ES staff, Sandra Marks, also noted that the City will look at the issue of slip lanes as part of the policy recommendations in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update.

3. FY 2016-2025 Capital Improvement Program – Public Hearing

T&ES staff, Carrie Sanders provided an overview of the considerations for the FY 2016 – FY 2025 transportation budget and highlighted significant changes from the FY 2015 – FY 2024 adopted budget. She reported that factors that influenced the FY 2016 budget were lower than expected revenues and WMATA’s operating and capital programs placed significant pressure on the City’s transportation budget. Citizens Randy Cole and Jim Durham spoke during the public hearing. Mr. Cole, of the Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board, urged to the Commission to prioritize Capital Bikeshare and non-motorized projects, and suggested that developer contributions be used to acquire right of way for future trails. Mr. Durham encouraged the Commission to make a recommendation that any change to WMATA’s budget come back to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and also that the City should consider balance and fairness metrics when prioritizing projects. After their testimony, discussion among Commissioners followed.

Commissioner King made a motion to inform City Council of recommendations by the Transportation Commission: 1) In the event that the City’s capital or operating contributions to WMATA are lower than currently budgeted, or cost savings on other transportation programs are realized, funds should revert to the TIP to fund other transportation priorities; 2) The Commission supports the expansion of Capital Bikeshare as an important element of the City’s transportation system, connecting people to transit and enhancing mobility and active transportation in the City. The Commission requests that Council approve a budget that includes full funding for the operating cost of this expansion; 3) If WMATA contributions remain as currently budgeted, the City should consider other reductions within the budget to fund operating costs for the sixteen additional Capital Bikeshare stations. If funding is not available for all 16 additional stations, the Commission recommends phased implementation of Capital Bikeshare expansion; 4) The expansion of DASH service is a high priority of the Transportation Commission. The City Manager’s proposed transportation budget anticipates very limited expansion of DASH service over the next 10 years. DASH is a critical element in moving people efficiently, supporting the City’s development plans and promoting economic sustainability. Robust funding for capital and operating costs of DASH expansion is Commission’s the second highest priority if additional funding becomes available; 5) Additional analysis should be conducted to determine if DASH could operate services currently operated by WMATA at a lower operating cost, especially during the weekend and off-peak periods where no capital investment is required; 6) The Old Cameron Run trail project is a higher priority than the Backlick Run trail project, and the Commission recommends consolidating funding for both projects to support construction of Old Cameron Run Trail. The Backlick Run Trail remains a priority, and should be added back to the City’s Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wasowski, voted on and unanimously approved.

4. Parking Ratio Study - Public Hearing

T&ES staff Carrie Sanders indicated the Parking Ratio Study is a result of the Transportation Master Plan parking section which states to manage parking in the City efficiently. The first

phase is to evaluate multi-family residential parking. The second phase of the project is to evaluate parking standards for new retail, commercial, and office development. Staff recommends that the draft recommendations be approved as a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance and replace existing parking requirements for multi-family housing citywide. Implementation of the proposed new parking standards will be supported by a “Guidelines Document”. Resident Paul Bickmore spoke during the public hearing and stated that the proposed amendment is encouraging, but is a modest start toward “right-sized” parking, and that the City should re-examine multi-family residential parking needs in five years. After his testimony, discussion among Commissioners followed. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to increase transparency for citizens by endorsing the Parking Ratio Study recommendations and to recommend a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to replace existing parking requirements for multi-family housing citywide to encourage less use of cars and reduce the need for developers asking for parking reductions, and to provide right size parking needs for the City. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jakubek, voted on and unanimously approved.

5. NVT A 70% Projects (FY15 / 16) – Town Hall

T&ES staff Sandra Marks gave an overview of how all of the taxes and fees collected under HB 2313 is sent to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVT A). Once received by the NVT A, those funds are divided into 70% regional or 30% local funds. The regional funds are disbursed to NVT A who uses a selection process to decide on which projects to fund. In January 2014, the Transportation Commission endorsed the West End Transitway; the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station; the Duke Street Transit Signal; and the Real-Time Adaptive Traffic Control and Data Management System Study for inclusion in NVT A’s FY 2015 – FY 2016 Two Year Program funded projects. Based on the selection criteria used by NVT A, the West End Transitway was the highest scored transit project in the FY 2015 – FY 2016 program. The Potomac Yard Metrorail Station was the second highest scored transit project. All three transit projects including the West End Transitway, the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, and the Duke Street Transit Signal are in the recommended list of projects to receive 70% regional funding within the Authority’s FY 2015 – FY 2016 Two Year Program. The Real-Time Adaptive Traffic Control and Data Management System Study was not recommended for funding. NVT A will accept and review public comments through April 12, 2015. Mr. Robinson urged Commissioners to send in comments for support of the City’s projects as a group or individually. The public hearing will be held on March 25, 2015 at NVT A offices in Fairfax. The two year program will be voted on at NVT A’s April 23, 2015 meeting. Staff asked the Commission to endorse the recommended projects for the FY 2015-2016 Two Year program. Commissioner King made a motion to endorse NVT A’s prioritization method and the resulting priorities. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson, voted on and unanimously approved.

6. Commission Updates

Chair Macek introduced, Annika Moman, who is the Environmental Policy Commission’s nominee to the Transportation Commission.

7. Other Business

Ms. Marks stated that according to the Transportation Commission by-laws, the chair and vice chair positions are voted for annually. Thereby, a vote for chair and vice chair is in order. Commissioner Anderson nominated Nate Macek as Chair. The Commission voted to have Nate Macek remain as Chair. Commissioner Jakubek nominated Jerry King to remain as Vice Chair. The Commission voted to have Mr. King remain as Vice Chair.

Chair Macek appointed Commissioner Michaelis to serve as a Transportation Commission representative on the Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee.

Chair Jakubek made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.