



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

September 17, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mayor William Euille, Councilman Tim Lovain, Jake Jakubek, Jerry King, James Lewis, Nathan Macek, Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Karen Callaham – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Carrie Sanders – T&ES, Lee Farmer – T&ES, Allan Fye – T&ES

Others Present: Kate Barrett, National Parks Service

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1. July 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Chair Nathan Macek called the meeting to order and if there were any changes to the June 23, 2014 minutes. There being additional edits, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner King, seconded by Commissioner Jakubek, voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Updates To Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received updates on the following: Funding Update; Potomac Yard Metrorail Station; Metroway (Route 1); West End Transitway; Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study; Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update; Eisenhower West Transportation Study; and Oakville Triangle and the Parking Ratio Study. Chair Macek asked if there were any questions or discussions on any items on the consent calendar. Commissioner King noted his appreciation for City staff's citizen outreach for the West End Transitway. There were no additional requests to discuss any other updates; therefore, the Commission accepted the updates.

3. 2014 Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP) – Public Hearing

Staff Sandra Marks reiterated that the LRP is a unconstrained list of transportation projects, programs and studies and that the Project Matrix is a constrained list of transportation projects for which full or partial funding has been identified. She gave a brief history of the 2014 LRP and recommendations from the Commission to change the rankings, change the livability score, remove the "Program" category, and deletions and additions of projects. After the recap, the Public Meeting was opened. Chair Macek explained clarification is needed on whether the Mt. Vernon Avenue at Four Mile Road project should move back to the project list. After

discussion among the Commissioners, it was decided to move forward with a vote on the LRP and have staff revise the language of the project to reflect exactly what it will entail and rescore it on the list, and add it back to the list as part of the 2015 LRP update. Commissioner Wasowski made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner King to adopt the LRP as recommended by the Commission in July with additional direction for staff to address the Mt. Vernon Avenue intersection improvements adjacent to the Four Mile Run Park as part of the 2015 LRP Update.

4. Memorial Circle Transportation Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA)

Kate Barrett of the National Park Service (NPS) attended the meeting and reported that NPS is proposing to improve the Memorial Circle portion of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. She stated the purpose is to reduce conflicts between trail, walkway, and roadway users. Another reason is to increase overall visitor safety, while maintaining the memorial character of the area and improving mobility for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles. She stated NPS is conducting public scoping to gather citizen's thoughts and ideas at the inception of the planning and EA process. She spoke about the evolution of the Memorial Circle from the early 1930's to current times. Commissioner Jakubek made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner King, to compose a letter of endorsement offering Complete Street options from the Commission with the following input: the NPS should take a complete streets approach and bicyclist and pedestrian needs should be given parity with motorists; signalization should be considered to address safety issues and conflict points; consider grade separation where trails intersect the roadway; consider simplifying the flow of traffic; and design improvements to allow for better police enforcement including pull-off areas. The letter will go through staff to Council as a recommendation then forwarded as comments to the NPS.

5. Commission Updates

Mayor Euille reported there is a special session of the General Assembly on September 18, 2014. He also stated that he has accepted leadership roles as President of the Virginia Municipal League (VML), Chairman of the Board of Council of Governments, and Chairman of the Board of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. A memo was drafted to Council and is under review in the City Manager's office regarding additional seats on the Transportation Commission. Commissioner Lovain reported that the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) adopted an updated Participation Plan. The Participation Plan focuses on tailoring outreach and involvement activities to the "involved" public, the "informed" public, and the "interested" public. The TPB will also be voting on the constrained Long Range Plan at the next meeting. He indicated he will be participating in the Community Leadership Institute that trains citizens in understating transportation issues. Commissioner Lewis reported that recommendations from the Parking Ratio Study should be forthcoming from the Traffic & Parking Board next month.

6. Other Business

Chair Macek asked staff for an update on staff changes within the Department. Staff Sandra Marks informed the Commission that Rich Baier and Marti Reinfeld have resigned their positions. Sandra has been upgraded to Deputy Director of Transportation; Carrie Sanders is Acting Division Chief of Transportation Planning; Allan Fye is the new Corridor C/West End Transitway Principal Planner; Ray Hayhurst is an Urban Planner who will be assisting with the West End Transitway and the Potomac Yard Metro. Yon Lambert is the Acting Director of the Department and Jeffrey DuVal is Acting Deputy Director/Operations in Yon's stead. Jeremy Hassan is Acting Division Chief of Public Works Services in Jeffrey Duval's role. The Metroway ridership has a weekday ridership of 1,500 per day, exceeding the Metrobus 9-S by

50%. It has not changed Metrobus 9-A ridership. The City's Transportation Master Plan is 5 years old and has been entered in the CIP budget request for revamping.

Chair Macek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.