



Alexandria Transportation Commission
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Alexandria, VA 22314

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Councilman Canek Aguirre
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 22, 2022

Re: Transportation Planning Board Climate Survey

Dear Councilman Aguirre:

I am writing on behalf of the Alexandria Transportation Commission. At the Commission's March 16 meeting, we discussed the Transportation Planning Board's (TPB's) survey on potential on-road transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions which will help set goals in the Long Range Transportation Plan (Visualize 2045).

The TPB's Climate Change Mitigation Study (CCMS) identified three primary pathways to reduce on-road GHG emissions: (1) conversion of the motor vehicle fleet to electric vehicles or lower carbon fuels; (2) reduction in motor vehicle travel through mode shifts and changes in travel behavior; and (3) improvement in motor vehicle travel efficiency through traffic system management and operations. Per findings shared by Commissioner Bill Pugh from the Coalition on Smarter Growth (Attachment 1), we feel that significant actions in all three areas are needed in order to meet GHG reduction goals.

The Commission discussed a few actions presented in the survey as areas of particular interest. The Commission supports City and regional efforts to encourage EV adoptions and to expand the EV charging network. We also believe that the proposed housing and land use actions outlined in the survey to increase housing near transit and activity centers and to shift housing and jobs to transit and activity centers are critical to meeting climate change goals. The Transportation Commission is very supportive of the DASH free fare program and would like to see continued free and reduced fare transit in the City and the region as a strategy to shift trips from personal vehicles to transit. Finally, the Commission noted that pricing can be a very influential factor in mode choice, and particularly noted that thoughtful parking pricing and/or parking cash-out programs could help meet mode shift goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important survey. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Oscar J. Gonzalez
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Alexandria City Council
City Manager James F. Parajon
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 - Coalition for Smarter Growth Recommendations for Local Governments and Transportation Agencies Regarding the TPB Climate Change Mitigation Goals and Strategies Questionnaire March 2022