



Transportation Commission Meeting

December 21, 2022

7:00 PM

Virtual Only

AGENDA

1. Public Comment (Not to exceed 10 min)
2. Minutes of the November 16, 2022 meeting
3. **Action Item: Consideration of Endorsement of I-395 Commuter Choice Grant Applications**
4. **Action Item: Consideration of Letter on Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP)**
5. **Discussion Item: Draft 2023 Transportation Commission Work Plan**
6. **Action Item: Consideration of Endorsement of FY24 DRPT State Aid Grant and Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance Grant Applications**
7. **Commissioner Updates**
8. **Items for Consent**
 - A. Protected Bike Lane Considerations
 - B. Railroad Bridge Low Clearance Warning Signs Update
 - C. Alexandria Mobility Plan (AMP) Implementation Update
 - D. TransAction Adoption
 - E. Potomac Yard Metro Station Opening Date Announced
9. **Other Business**

Public hearing items are so noted on the agenda. The Commission may receive public comments on other agenda items at its discretion. When there is no public hearing, the Commission encourages written comments on agenda items be sent in advance of or after the meeting.

Next Meeting: January 18, 2023



The December 21, 2022, meeting of the Transportation Commission is being held electronically. All the members of the public body and staff are participating from remote locations through a Zoom Webinar. The public is invited to attend the meeting virtually by registering in advance using the following link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Mqn2oxlORLqWVqxqhLqpMw

Or by phone: 301 715 8592
Meeting ID: 951 9395 6805
Passcode: 068073

Public comment will be received at the meeting. There will be a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting and written testimony can be provided until 3PM on 12/21/22 to Megan.Oleynik@alexandriava.gov

The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of ADA. An individual with a disability who wishes to request an accommodation may contact the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4086 or TTY/TTD 703-838-5056.



City of Alexandria
Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

November 16, 2022
7:00 p.m.
Council Work Room

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Oscar Gonzalez, Commissioner Melissa McMahon, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner James Maslanka, Commissioner Matthew McManus, Commissioner Jody Manor, Vice Chair Bruce Marsh (virtual), Councilman Kirk McPike.

Staff Present: Christopher Ziemann – Transportation Planning Division Chief, Megan Oleynik – Transportation Planning Division, Sharese Thomas – Transportation Planning Division, and Bill Eger – General Services.

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/TransportationCommission>

Chair Gonzalez called the Transportation Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. Public Comment Period

Bill Pugh (virtual) a resident of the City expressed concerns about the lack of response from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) regarding streetlight outages and expressed that the City should have a way to share and track streetlight outage requests through VDOT. Mr. Pugh asked Staff to follow-up with VDOT on this issue. Staff will follow-up with VDOT and report back to the Commission.

Morgan Babcock (virtual) a member of the Carlyle Council discussed the lack of checks and balances in Alex 311. She asked the Commission for its support in relaying to the City Manager that a lot of 311 system tickets don't get assigned and go unaddressed.

2. October Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes: Commissioner McMahon

Second: Commissioner Kane

Motion carries unanimously

3. DISCUSSION ITEM: King Street and Commonwealth Avenue Rail Bridge Update (VPRA)

ISSUE: Briefing from Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) on a Feasibility Study to determine the future of the rail bridges over King Street and Commonwealth Avenue in the City of Alexandria.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide feedback to VPRA on the King Street and Commonwealth Avenue Rail Bridges Feasibility Study.

DISCUSSION: Claire Mansfield, Government Affairs Manager, with the VPRA provided an overview on the King Street and Commonwealth Avenue Rail Bridges feasibility study. The study was performed to identify, screen, and establish a recommended design option to either rehabilitate or replace the existing rail bridges. Four design options were developed to modernize the existing rail bridges, reduce maintenance, and accommodate a future fourth railroad track. VPRA is recommending the bridge replacement design option and will be soliciting public input by comment survey that is open through December 2. The study is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2022. Commissioners asked clarifying questions and recommended horizontal widening of the bridges.

Motion for the Transportation Commission to have staff review low clearance signage around the King Street Avenue Bridge and report back to the Commission at the December meeting:

Commissioner McManus

Second: Commissioner Maslanka

Motion carries unanimously

4. DISCUSSION ITEM: Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP)

ISSUE: Briefing on Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP) Update.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission discuss the updated ECCAP working draft and provide feedback.

DISCUSSION: Bill Eger, Energy Manager, presented an update on the ECCAP 2040. The goal of the ECCAP is to increase the City's preparedness to respond to the impacts of climate change and environmental emergencies. Mr. Eger discussed the development process and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Community feedback will be received to take to council for consideration in January 2023. Commissioner McMahan suggested having more frequent updates on the data points and making the update more actionable than other documents that preceded it. The Commission will review the working draft and provide feedback at the next meeting.

5. ACTION ITEM: Consideration of Letter of Endorsement of Duke Street in Motion Guiding Principles

ISSUE: Consideration of a letter of endorsement for the Duke Street in Motion Guiding Principles.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission endorse the draft letter to the Duke Street Advisory Group

DISCUSSION: Megan Oleynik, Long Range Planner, presented the draft letter to the Duke Street Advisory Group for approval. Commission McManus expressed concerns with the letter, indicating he felt additional community outreach was needed before making decisions regarding the guiding principles or other aspects of the project. Commissioners provided feedback on what they would like to include in the draft letter to the Duke Street Advisory Group. Staff will make the recommended changes.

Motion for the Transportation Commission to endorse the Guiding Principles of the Duke Street in Motion Project through the draft letter provided in the docket with the modification:

Commissioner McMahan

Second: Commissioner Maslanka

Commissioner McManus abstained

Motion carries

Commissioner updates

Commissioner Gonzalez - Construction is continuing on the High School Project.

Commissioner Kane –The Traffic and Parking Board met on November 14th and discussed taxicab updates.

Commissioner Maslanka – Participated in a public meeting at the Potomac River Generating Site. A comprehensive overview was given.

Commissioner McMahon – The Transportation Management Plan (TMP) policy update item was deferred at the Planning Commission. Thursday, December 1st is the Planning Commission Retreat from 12-5pm at Charleston Houston.

Commissioner McManus - Mentioned that bus route 28A and routes that link area west of Quaker Lane were not in service and having alternative bus options are helpful.

6. Items for Consent

A. Seminary Road Evaluation Report

DISCUSSION: Commissioner McManus expressed concerns that data reported was not a reflection of typical conditions due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion for Staff to report back to the Commission in June about the changes in volumes and usage of the streets pre- vs. post-pandemic: Commissioner McManus

Second: Commissioner McMahon

Motion carries

B. 2029 CMAQ/RSTP Grant Applications

7. Other Business

Bike lanes article and status on protected bike lanes in Alexandria
Fully Virtual December 21 Meeting

Adjournment

At 9:09 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2022

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

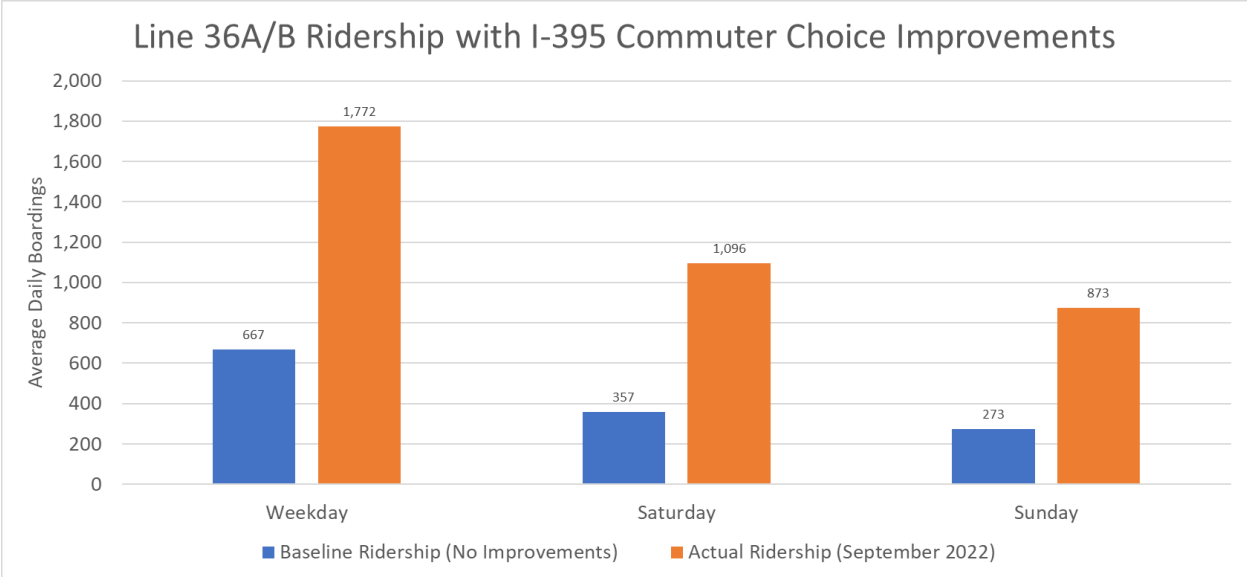
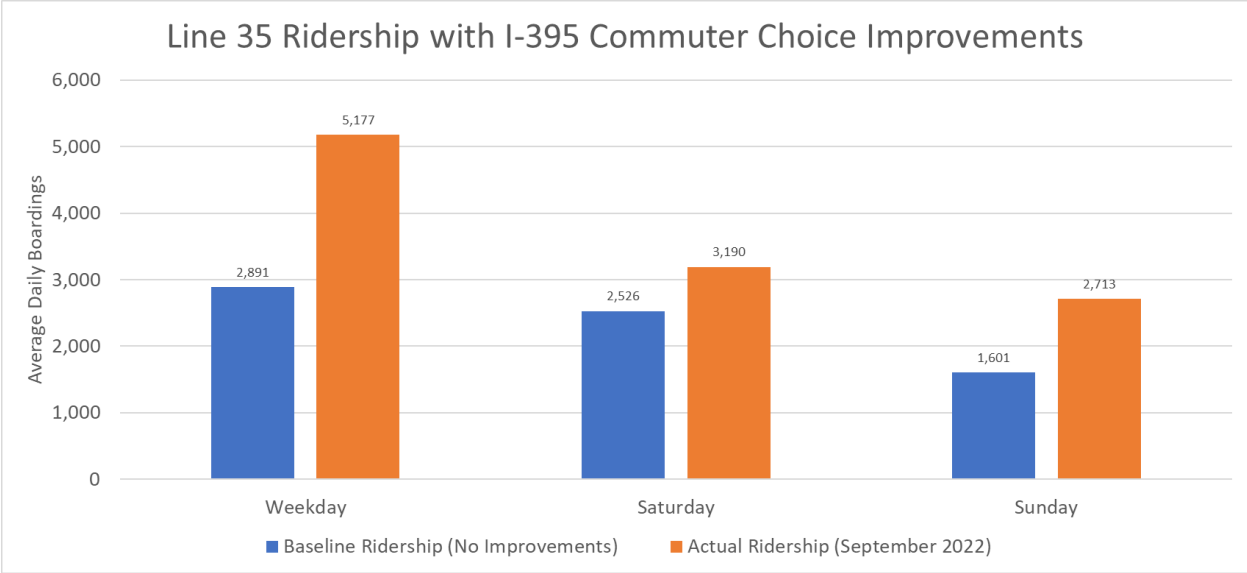
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 – I-395/95 COMMUTER CHOICE GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

ISSUE: Consideration of a letter of support for grant applications from DASH and the City of Alexandria for the FY 2024–2025 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission adopt the Letter of Support (Attachment 1) for the three (3) I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant applications for up to \$26.5 million over the two-year grant cycle.

BACKGROUND: The purpose of the Commuter Choice program is to provide funding support for transportation projects that maximize person throughput in the I-395/95 corridor and improve mobility options. The program is managed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), which oversee the distribution of roughly \$17 million in annual funding from I-395/95 Express Lane toll revenues.

In the first four years of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program, DASH and the City have been awarded more than \$14 million in funding for two bus service enhancement projects on Line 35 and Line 36A/B. Funding increased the service frequency and hours of operation. As a result of these service improvements, ridership on these routes has increased dramatically on both weekdays and weekends. The graphs below display a comparison between baseline ridership levels without the I-395 Commuter Choice improvements and the actual daily ridership levels with the service improvements.



DISCUSSION: Staff propose to submit three applications for the FY 2024 – FY 2025 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant Program. Two of the applications are “continuation” grant applications that will enable DASH to continue to operate the enhancements in the two corridors that are currently receiving funding. The third project is a capital project that would enable DASH to purchase 100% electric buses to provide additional passenger capacity on Line 35 while also promoting local and regional goals for sustainability and environmental justice. The following projects are being submitted for funding and are listed in recommended order of priority:

Project 1 – Enhanced Bus Service from Van Dorn Metro to Pentagon (Line 35) –\$7,500,000
 Project 1 is the proposed priority project (as it was in the first two rounds) and would fund the continuation of the service expansions for DASH “Line 35”, which operates parallel to I-395 in West Alexandria (Attachment 3) and runs every 10 minutes all-day on weekdays and every 15 minutes all-day on weekends.

Project 2 – Enhanced Bus Service from Mark Center to Potomac Yard (Line 36) - \$4,000,000

Project 2 is the second priority project and would fund the continuation of the service expansions for DASH “Line 36A/B”, which operates parallel to I-395 in West Alexandria, Parkfairfax, Arlandria and Potomac Yard (Attachment 3) and runs every 15 minutes all-day, seven days per week.

Project 3 – Bus Purchases for Additional Capacity on West End – Up to \$15,000,000

Project 3 seeks up to \$15,000,000 in funding for DASH to purchase ten large 100% electric buses to support the operation of Line 35. Due to high ridership demand (upwards of 5,000 passengers per day), many Line 35 weekday trips operate with 35-foot buses that are at or above capacity with many passengers standing or, in some cases, being passed up because the bus is too full. These 40-foot and 60-foot buses to provide additional capacity on the busiest bus route in the DASH system while making the service more attractive with new, accessible 100% electric buses.

FISCAL IMPACT: The City is applying for a combined total of up to \$26,500,000 in grant funding, and since there is no local match requirement, there are no fiscal impacts associated with the application or award of I-395/95 Commuter Choice funds. However, if the City does not receive the requested funding for the first two projects to maintain the current Line 35 or 36A/B improvements DASH would not be able to operate the enhanced service which would amount to a service reduction with significant customer impact.

For Project 3, the purchase of ten electric buses could potentially provide an operation and maintenance cost savings of \$1.5 million over their life compared to clean diesel buses. The purchase of these buses with grant funds could offset City dollars needed to replace existing buses that will meet their useful life in FY24.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: DRAFT Endorsement Letter to Council



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

www.alexandriava.gov

Honorable Mayor Justin Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

December 21, 2022

Re: Endorsement of Application for FY24-FY25 I-395/95 NVTC Commuter Choice Grant

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its December 21, 2022, meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the City's proposed I-395/95 Commuter Choice Grant applications. The proposals seek a total of up to \$26,500,000 over a two-year period for the continuation of service enhancements on two DASH routes in the new 2022 Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan that provide important transit connections for the West End, and the purchase of 10 electric buses for additional bus capacity on Line 35.

The proposed top priority project, "DASH West End – Pentagon Bus Service Enhancements", would allow DASH to continue to provide weekday, Saturday, and Sunday service enhancements for the new DASH "Line 35". This route provides frequent, all-day service in West Alexandria from the Van Dorn Metro to the Pentagon via Beauregard Street. This project will continue to build on major recent ridership growth in West Alexandria along the planned West End Transitway corridor, maintain a potential future source of operations funding for the transitway, and support the implementation of the 2022 ATV Plan. Total project cost for FY 2024 – 2025 is roughly \$7,500,000.

The second-priority project, "DASH West End – Potomac Yard Bus Service Enhancements", proposes to continue the weekday, Saturday, and Sunday service enhancements for "Line 36". "Line 36" provides service to key destinations along the I-395 corridor including the Mark Center, Shirlington, Arlandria, and the future Potomac Yard Metro Station. The total two-year cost of the project is \$4,000,000.

The third priority project, "DASH Bus Purchases for Additional Capacity from West End to Pentagon" would fund the purchase of 10 new, large 100% electric buses that would be used to provide additional passenger capacity along the Line 35 corridor in West Alexandria. Due to major ridership increases, Line 35 sees frequent crowding on buses that could be mitigated with the purchase of additional 40- and 60-foot buses. The total funding request for this project is up to \$15,000,000.

The Commission recommends that Council support these grant requests.

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
James F. Parajon, City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Josh Baker, General Manager, DASH

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2022

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 – CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER ON THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

ISSUE: Consideration of a letter of support and feedback for the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission move to provide the draft letter of support and feedback to the ECCAP Task Force.

BACKGROUND: At the November 16 Transportation Commission meeting, the Commission received an update on the [EECAP](#) including the purpose and background of the project, community engagement efforts, and transportation specific goals and strategies.

DISCUSSION: Members of the Commission indicated general support for and shared their feedback on the ECCAP. Commissioners indicated that they would like the final version of the ECCAP to include an updated 2021 data point for greenhouse gas emissions trends and suggested annual updates would help the City to better track progress and respond more efficiently to changing trends. Commissioners highlighted the importance of local level actions to address climate change. A draft letter providing feedback and support for the draft ECCAP is provided in **Attachment 1**.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Draft ECCAP Letter of Support and Feedback



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Mary Harris and Marian Pegram, Co-Chairs
EECAP Task Force

December 21, 2022

Re: Support and feedback for the Draft Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (EECAP)

Dear Chairs Harris and Pegram,

At the November 16 Transportation Commission meeting, Bill Eger, Energy Manager, updated the Commission on the draft EECAP including the purpose and background of the plan, engagement efforts to date, an overview of the draft plan, and a focus on the transportation trends and goals laid out in the plan.

As expressed at the meeting, Commissioners indicated that they would like the final version of the EECAP to include an updated 2021 data point for greenhouse gas emissions trends. The Commission feels that there would be additional value in providing annual updates, recognizing that these would be more high-level and less precise than the more thorough three-year updates. Providing yearly updates would help the City to better track progress and respond more efficiently to changing trends, which is particularly important at this moment as climate change becomes more dire and the rate of change escalates.

The Commission wants to commend the efforts of the EECAP task force and share support for this plan, recognizing the importance of local policy and efforts in addressing climate change. With that in mind, the Transportation Commission recognizes that the EECAP's focus on what we can do at a local level, especially relating to transportation goals such as reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips and replacing internal combustion engine trips with electric vehicle trips, is particularly important.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Yon Lambert, Acting Deputy City Manager and Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Bill Eger, Energy Manager, General Services
Christopher Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief, T&ES
Megan Oleynik, Urban Planner, T&ES

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2022
TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5 – DRAFT 2023 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WORKPLAN

ISSUE: Consideration of the Draft 2023 Workplan.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive the Draft 2023 Workplan and provide feedback.

BACKGROUND: Every calendar year, staff and the Transportation Commission create a Transportation Commission Workplan to map out anticipated items the Commission will receive throughout the year. This is not necessarily an exhaustive list and items might change. The goal is to allow the Commission to anticipate upcoming topics.

DISCUSSION: The Draft 2023 Workplan developed by staff is provided in Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Draft 2023 Transportation Commission Workplan

ATTACHMENT 1

2023 DRAFT Transportation Commission Work Plan												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
City Planning Studies												
Duke Street Traffic Mitigation Projects												
Interdepartmental Long Range Work Plan												
Paratransit Program Update												
COVID-19 Recovery Transportation Data Update												
Electric Vehicle Readiness Strategy Implementation												
Repaving Update												
Safe Routes to School												
Trails												
West End Transitway												
Duke Street In Motion												
Transportation Funding												
FY2022-2031 City Budget												
NVTA 70% Funds												
CMAQ/RSTP Grant												
DRPT Transit Assistance and CAP grants												
FTA Grants												
Federal Grants												
Transportation Alternatives Program												
VDOT Revenue Sharing Grant												
WMCOG Technical Assistance Grants												
Transportation Programs												
Vision Zero Action Plan Implementation												
Complete Streets												
Automated Enforcement Tools												
Alexandria Mobility Plan Implementation												
Capital Bikeshare Update												
Transportation Management Plan (TMP) Update												
DASH Bus												
Smart Mobility / Parking Technologies												
Regional Projects / Plans												
State Legislative Process												
Transforming Rail												
VDOT I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study												
Blue Orange Silver Line Study (WMATA)												
Bus Transformation Project (WMATA)												
WMATA Budget												

- Discussion Item 
- Action Item 
- Consent Item 

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2021

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #6 - FY 2024 DRPT STATE AID GRANT AND COMMUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT

ISSUE: Consideration of grant applications to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for the FY 2024 State Aid Grant Programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide an endorsement to City Council for the approval of DRPT FY 2024 State Aid and CAP Operating Assistance Grant applications.

BACKGROUND: The City applies annually to the Virginia DRPT for grant funds that support transit operating assistance and capital expenses for DASH, Metro and DOT/Paratransit and commuter outreach programs. Both state aid grants reimburse the City for funds spent on transit activities. These funds go directly to the City's Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) Fund and are used to pay the City's annual WMATA operating budget.

The City operates a commuter outreach program, known as GO Alex, that provides information, encouragement and incentives to support Council's goal of increasing transit ridership and transportation options other than a single-occupant vehicle while still ensuring that residents, workers, and visitors can reach destinations within Alexandria. This strategy is endorsed in the "Mobility Options" chapter of the Alexandria Mobility Plan. DASH submits applications annually for the demonstration project assistance and an intern.

DISCUSSION: The City and DASH plan to submit applications for five DRPT grant programs that will help offset City expenses and provide greater support for DASH. The programs all work toward the City's goal of supporting multimodal transportation options and reducing single occupancy vehicle trips to relieve congestion. The summaries below reflect the proposed applications and align with the guidelines and criteria outlined by DRPT for each pot of funding:

Operating Assistance State Aid Grant

City of Alexandria Transit Operating Assistance - (Up to \$34,000,000): Operating assistance to jurisdictions is allocated based on system size and system performance, for both DASH and DOT paratransit. Operating costs have increased over past years due to labor and fuel costs. The

amount the Commonwealth can provide in operating assistance varies annually but has typically been between 20-30%.

Capital Assistance State Aid Grant

DASH Bus Replacement – (Up to \$20,000,000) The Capital Assistance Program provides a reimbursement to the City for a portion of money spent on the purchase of transit capital assets. In FY24, the City will purchase replacement buses and batteries that will help DASH maintain its State of Good Repair and a safe and reliable bus fleet by replacing buses that have reached the end of their 12-year useful life cycle. These purchases are eligible for reimbursement, and the funds that come back to the City are used to offset general fund dollars required for transit operational costs, such as WMATA. In previous years, the City has been reimbursed up to 68% for capital purchases, but the number can vary year to year.

Commuter Assistance Program

GO Alex – (Up to \$331,300) The Commuter Assistance Program grant provides a reimbursement to the City for operating dollars spent on the GO Alex programming and staffing. These funds will maintain current staffing and fund future programming such as the opening of the Potomac Yard Metrorail station and Capital Bikeshare. A 20% local match is required.

Demonstration Project Assistance Program

Electric Bus Charge, Management System Pilot – (Up to \$235,000) This pilot would allow DASH to monitor electric bus charging status of individual buses and actively manage the distributing of electrical charging across multiple charging stations to better align with real-time service needs. DASH would be the first transit agency in the state to deploy this type of platform. A 20% local match is required.

Automated Wheelchair Securement Pilot – (Up to \$80,000) This grant would provide funding to DASH to install a state-of-the-art automated wheelchair securement system on up to five DASH buses by allowing passengers with mobility devices to safely secure themselves without operator involvement. This would reduce potential liability, improve travel times and reliability. Lastly, this would eliminate close contact between operators and passengers. A 20% local match is required.

Public Transportation Workforce Development Program

Public Transit Intern – (Up to \$55,000) This grant will allow DASH to continue funding one Planning Intern position through FY 2024 to gain valuable experience in the public transportation industry. A 20% local match is required.

If approved by DRPT, funds would require formal adoption by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and incorporation into the state’s Six Year Program in spring 2023. Funds would be available on or after July 1, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT: State Aid Operating Assistance funds provided by DRPT to jurisdictions do not require a local match or pose a negative fiscal impact. Historically, State Aid has typically provided a 20-29% reimbursement, and Capital Aid has typically provided an 65-68% reimbursement. The CAP, Demonstration Projects and Public Transportation Workforce

Development Programs require a 20% match of \$66,260, \$63,000 and \$11,000 respectively, which will be considered during the FY 2024 budget development process. If the local match were to be removed from the planned FY 2024 Operating Budget, the City may withdraw or otherwise amend the grant application.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: DRAFT Transportation Commission Letter of Support



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
December 21, 2022

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2024 DRPT Operating and Capital Assistance State Aid Applications and the Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant Applications and Approval of Required Matching Funds.

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its December 21, 2022, meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff recommended funded requests through five DRPT grant programs:

DRPT Operating Assistance

- Up to \$34 million to offset the City's operating expenses for FY 2024 and provide greater support for DASH

DRPT Capital Assistance

- Up to \$20 million to purchase replacement buses and batteries to maintain the DASH fleet in a State of Good repair

Commuter Assistance Program

- Up to \$331,300 to fund two staff and programming.
 - This requires a \$66,260 local match

Demonstration Project Assistance Program

- Up to \$235,000 for an Electric Bus Charge Management System Pilot
- Up to \$80,000 for an Automated Wheelchair Securement Pilot

Demonstration Project Assistance Program

- Up to \$235,000 for an Electric Bus Charge Management System Pilot
- Up to \$80,000 for an Automated Wheelchair Securement Pilot

Public Transportation Workforce Development Program

- Up to \$55,000 to fund a DASH planning intern

These requests support goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan including supporting multimodal transportation and reducing single occupancy vehicle trips. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for the FY 2024 DRPT Grant request formulated to procure DRPT operating and capital funds and the FY 2023 Commuter Assistance Program grant request.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager James Parajon
Yon Lambert, Interim Deputy City Manager and Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2022

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: CHRISTOPHER ZIEMANN, TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION
CHIEF, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #8 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. Protected Bicycle Lane Considerations

Protected bicycle lanes are bicycle facilities that are fully separated from vehicular traffic with physical, vertical separations such as curbs, bollards, or planters. The City recognizes the safety, environmental, and economic advantages that protected bike lanes can offer. There are many factors staff must consider when determining appropriate bicycle facilities on a corridor including accessibility, emergency vehicle access, existing and projected volumes of different modes, right-of-way widths, and maintenance.

Staff have taken steps aimed to streamline decision-making regarding bicycle lane design and implementation. The adoption of the Curbside Prioritization Framework (Attachment 1) in the Alexandria Mobility Plan (AMP) helps staff identify where bike lanes would be a high priority. As part of this framework, bike lanes, among other items included in City plans, were identified as the highest priority use in all land use contexts. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Chapter of the AMP also encourages safe and comfortable bicycle facilities through strategies such as “Build out a connected bicycle network of both on- and off-street facilities and shared mobility devices to benefit riders of all ages and abilities.” Protected bicycle lanes will be an important strategy for meeting the needs of riders of all ages and abilities.

Additionally, in 2022, staff published the [Complete Streets Five-Year Plan](#) after review by the Transportation Commission in June. This Plan identifies the following bicycle

facility projects over the next five years, which will include consideration of protected bike lanes for on-street facilities:

- South Pickett Street Bike Lanes (from Duke St to Edsall Rd)
- Eisenhower Avenue Bike Lanes (South Van Dorn St to Holmes Run Pkwy)

Additional bicycle facility projects will be considered as resources are available. Facility type will be determined during project design and will be dependent on the considerations noted above.

B. Railroad Bridge Low Clearance Warning Signs Update

At the November 2022 Transportation Commission meeting, the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) presented the feasibility study to replace or rehabilitate the King Street and Commonwealth Avenue rail bridges. At this meeting, it was noted that the King Street Rail Bridge has low clearance and is subject to strikes by vehicles. The Commission asked staff to review the low clearance signage and provide additional signage as needed. After reviewing the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) signage requirements for a bridge of this height, staff identified that five additional signs were required in addition to the three existing signs present today. See Figure 1 below for more details on the locations of existing and proposed signage. Traffic Operations staff are working on fabricating and installing the additional signs needed.



Figure 1

C. Alexandria Mobility Plan (AMP) Implementation Update

The AMP was adopted by City Council in November 2021. Program and project managers have provided updates on the progress of the strategies and actions laid out in the AMP at the end in the first year of implementation. A progress full report is available [here](#).

Key accomplishments highlighted in the report include:

- Implementation of the DASH New Network.
- Collaboration with the community on a design for Duke Street to inform the Duke Street Transitway.
- Progress toward making DASH an eligible direct recipient of federal grants to broaden available funding.
- Partnership with Via on the DOT Paratransit Program in July 2022 to provide more flexible, customer friendly scheduling and dispatching services.
- Development of a Complete Streets Five-Year Plan.
- Evaluation of crash data to assess problem areas and potential solutions.
- Applications for federal grant funding through the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program to perform intersection audits and conceptual design at high-crash locations.
- Applications for regional technical assistance for high-crash location audits and began analysis in Fall 2022.
- Utilization of the Curbside Prioritization Framework to inform decisions by the Traffic and Parking Board regarding potential changes to curbside uses.

D. TransAction Adoption

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority unanimously adopted the TransAction Plan and Project List on December 8, 2022. The newly adopted version of TransAction will serve as the initial eligibility filter for jurisdictions and agencies to consider when submitting future funding requests to NVTA.

TransAction updates occurs every five years, with the current update addressing regional transportation needs through 2045. TransAction is used to evaluate potential region-wide impacts of numerous projects, including transit, bike and pedestrian, roadway, transportation technologies and more.

TransAction includes a [plan document](#) and associated list of [424 transportation projects](#) identified to reduce traffic congestion and improve travel throughout the region. TransAction outlines an array of projects that represent options for how Northern Virginia can achieve its transportation vision and goals of enhancing mobility, increasing accessibility, and improving resiliency.

E. Potomac Yard Metro Station Opening Date Announced

Metro announced that the Potomac Yard Station is now expected to open in May 2023. Work to tie-in the station and new tracks with the rest of the Metrorail system concluded on Saturday, Nov. 5, and trains are now passing through the station without stopping. Metro continues working collaboratively with the City of Alexandria and the contractor to complete station construction. In addition, Metro and its safety partners will complete critical safety reviews and provide staff training prior to opening for passenger service.

Curb Space Prioritization Framework

This framework sets priorities for curb access based on land uses. Land uses are broadly defined into four categories based on the kinds of curbside activity in different parts of the city.

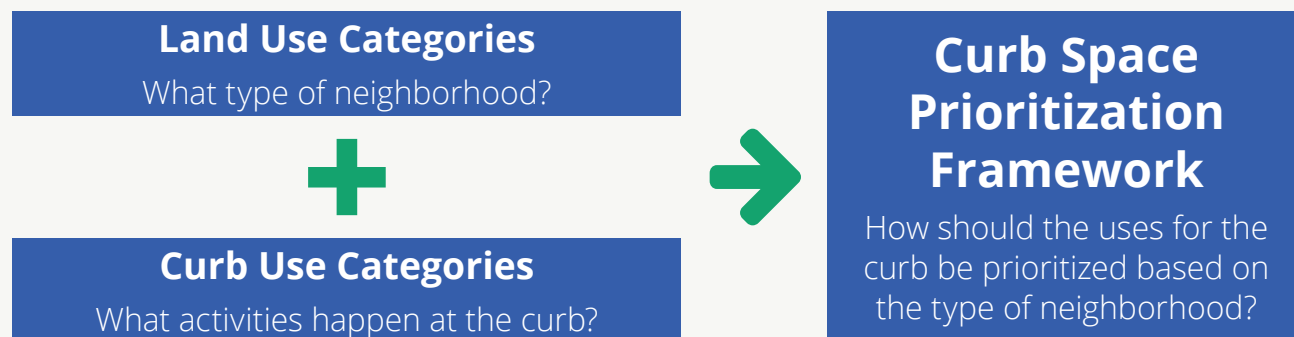
Curb uses are also categorized broadly to enable future mobility options to fit into this framework. For example, previous plans mentioned bus stops, but did not anticipate bikeshare systems, dockless scooters, or ridehail companies like Uber and Lyft.

As part of the Alexandria Mobility Plan, the City has begun the work to realize Strategy 1 and develop a curb space prioritization framework. This framework outlines varying priorities for curb uses in areas of the city, depending on their land use. Staff will use this framework to guide future decisions.

This framework can be applied to existing streets as well as future streets outlined in small area plans.

When evaluating proposals and resident requests that will impact curb space, staff will work through the framework with affected parties to understand the needs and context of the street. This framework helps guide decision-makers when evaluating requests and applications—it is not a proposal for changing the City’s streets.

- The specific context for each block matters. If a proposal is not feasible on a given street, this framework would not apply.
- Not every curb use category will apply to every street. For example, low-density residential streets with available curb space will not need large (or any) changes to provide adequate access for people.
- Higher priority uses will not eliminate lower priorities. Providing access for goods, for example, does not mean that all the parking on a street will be eliminated, but instead that a parking space may be considered for removal to introduce improved access for goods.



Land Use Categories

	Description:	Examples:
Residential	Predominantly residential uses, including detached houses, rowhouses, and apartment buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameron Station Blvd between Duke St and S. Pickett St • Taney Ave between N. Jordan St and Van Dorn St
Main Streets	Mixed-use neighborhoods with office, residential, and retail uses as well as neighborhood retail corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt Vernon Ave in Del Ray • King St in Old Town
Office & Commercial	Areas with predominantly office, retail, and other 'Downtown' functions—often high-density and often including residential towers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eisenhower Ave between Holland Ln and Telegraph Rd in Carlyle • Duke St between Holland Ln and Dulany St
Warehouse and Industrial	Areas with mostly industrial and warehouse uses, including redeveloping areas adding retail uses and residential developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheeler Ave west of S. Early St • S. Pickett St west of Van Dorn St

Curb Use Categories

	Examples:
City Plan Priorities	Safety improvements, bus lanes, bike lanes, green infrastructure, electric vehicle charging, and other items specifically included in City plans
Access for Goods	Loading zones, deliveries, food pick-up/drop-off
Access for People	Bus stops, pick-up/drop-off, bikeshare stations, scooter corrals
Parking	Metered parking, residential parking, bike parking
Activation	Parklets, in-street dining, public art

Curb Space Prioritization Framework

Priority:	Residential	Main Streets	Office & Commercial	Warehouse & Industrial
1: High	City Plan Priorities			
2	Access for People	Access for People	Access for People	Access for Goods
3	Parking	Access for Goods	Access for Goods	Access for People
4	Access for Goods	Activation	Parking	Parking
5: Low	Activation	Parking	Activation	Activation