



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2023

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: JAMES F. PARAJON, CITY MANAGER 

FROM: ADRIANA CASTANEDA, DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES 
Adriana Castaneda (Nov 7, 2023 11:16 EST)

SUBJECT: COUNCIL UPDATE: DUKE STREET TRANSITWAY PROJECT UPDATE #1

The purpose of this memorandum is twofold: to provide an update on the Duke Street in Motion Project and to address the questions raised during the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Fall Work Session discussion at the Legislative Council meeting on October 24, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

This memorandum is in response to the questions raised at the October 24, 2023, Legislative Council meeting during the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Fall Work Session discussion. The City Council requested an update on the requests from the June 27, 2023, Legislative Council meeting, community outreach plan, and next steps. On the June 27th, Legislative Council meeting, City Council endorsed the preferred concept for the Duke Street Transitway but requested staff to continue to work with the community on the design of the service roads in Segment 3.

Legislative Council Meeting Requests (June 27, 2023)

To provide an update on:

- Community engagement regarding the service road design.
- A timeline for future check-ins.
- The outcome of community discussion regarding the service roads and design decisions for Segment 2B.

DISCUSSION:

Community Engagement Plan

In response to the City Council request and as part of the City's continued collaboration efforts with the community, the following engagement activities around the Duke Street service road design were set in motion this fall.

September 2023 – December 2023

- In September, staff began discussions with various stakeholders to discuss several concept ideas for the service roads and how those impacted the design for both the Duke Street Transitway Project and the West Taylor Run/Telegraph Road Project.
- In October, staff refined concepts based on community feedback.
- In November, staff will be attending community association meetings to get larger community input on the updated concepts for both projects.
- In December, the City will be hosting a public meeting to provide an additional opportunity for all community members to hear about the concepts and provide input.

NEXT STEPS:

As a path forward, this winter staff will update City Council on the Duke Street Transitway Project (Segment 2B and the service roads in Segment 3) on the following:

- The outcome of the community discussions regarding the service road design, including the Cambridge Road/Roth Avenue intersection.
 - Should there be recommended changes to the street that include a modification from two-way to one-way, staff will bring that back to Council at a future meeting for official action, after the Traffic and Parking Board has had an opportunity to host a public hearing and provide feedback.
- Further analysis and design on Section 2B to determine if center running bus lanes should advance.
- Potential shorter-term improvements along the corridor to address community concerns raised during the concept design process.
- Future communications and engagement for design and implementation of this project
- Status of the design contract to advance the Duke Street Transitway project through final design.
- Additionally, in response to the Council request at the October 24, 2023, Legislative Council meeting, an update on the Duke Street at West Taylor Run/Telegraph Road project will be shared.

Additionally, staff will reintroduce the quarterly Duke Street Projects newsletter beginning December 2023, which will deliver updates, engagement opportunities, and more precise project timelines to both the community and the Council. Once the design consultant is under contract, staff will share major project milestone updates to City Council.

Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Hillary Orr, Deputy Director of Transportation at hillary.orr@Alexandriava.gov or me at adriana.castañeda@alexandriava.gov.

cc: Emily A. Baker, Deputy City Manager
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, Transportation & Environmental Services