



*Transportation Commission Meeting*

**February 21, 2024  
7:00PM  
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**AGENDA**

1. Public Comment (Not to exceed 10 min)
2. Minutes of the January 17, 2024 meeting
3. **Discussion Item:** Electric Vehicle Planning
4. **Action Item:** WMATA Budget
5. Commissioner Updates
6. Items for Consent
  - A. Annual Work Plan
  - B. No Turn on Red on St. Asaph Street
  - C. Sanger Avenue Improvements
  - D. Capital Bikeshare Highest Ridership Year
  - E. AlexWest Small Area Plan Update
  - F. AlexMoves Multimodal Survey Update
  - G. Shirlington Circle Project Update
  - H. Glendale Contraflow Bicycle Lane
7. Other Business

---

*Public hearing items are so noted on the agenda. The Commission may receive public comments on other agenda items at its discretion.*

*Next Meeting: March 20, 2024*

---



The February 21 meeting of the Transportation Commission is being held at 7:00 p.m. electronically, on Zoom. Members of the Transportation Commission and staff are participating from a remote location through video conference call on Zoom. The meeting can be accessed via Zoom by registering at the following link:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_hLQfjHtST\\_ihXZP6eTF8XA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hLQfjHtST_ihXZP6eTF8XA)

Or by phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 916 4868 8918

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 2/21/2024 to [christopher.ziemann@alexandriava.gov](mailto:christopher.ziemann@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 703-746-4083 or TTY/TTD 703-838-5056.



**City of Alexandria**  
Transportation Commission

**Regular Meeting**

January 17, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Melissa McMahon, Vice Chair Matthew McManus, Commissioner James Maslanka, Commissioner Casey Kane, Commissioner Leslie Catherwood, Commissioner Tim Lovain, Commissioner Jody Manor, Commissioner Dan Beattie, Councilman Kirk McPike.

**Staff Present:** Hillary Orr – Deputy Director, Christopher Ziemann – Transportation Planning Division Chief, Beth Znidersic – Recreation, Parks, and Community Activities Department Division Chief

Audio/Visual presentation is available online:

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

Chair McMahon called the Transportation Commission meeting at 7:06 p.m.

**1. Public Comment Period**

**Motion to close public hearing:** Commissioner Maslanka

**Second:** Commissioner Kane

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**2. January Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes:** Commissioner McManus

**Second:** Commissioner Manor

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**3. DISCUSSION ITEM: Trails**

**ISSUE:** Staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Community Activities (RPCA) to provide update and information to the Transportation Commission on the trail maintenance and planning program and activities

**RECOMMENATION:** That the Commission receive this presentation.

**DISCUSSION:** Beth Znidersic, RPCA Department Division Chief presented an update on Trails and the upcoming projects.

**4. ACTION ITEM: RAISE Grant Application**

**ISSUE:** The City is proposing to apply for the FY 2024 RAISE planning grant.

**RECOMMENATION:** That Transportation Commission endorse a letter to City Council in support of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) FY 2024 RAISE funding application.

**DISCUSSION:** Chris Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief provided an overview of the RAISE Grant Application. Due to the proximity to the interstate and number of ramps connecting to this segment of Seminary Road, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will be closely involved as a key stakeholder with any study in this area. Additionally, VDOT requires Operational and Safety Analysis Report (OSAR) to accompany any recommended changes that could involve access modifications to highway ramps. Conducting the planning early and in coordination with the state will set the City up for future success and expedited project delivery should recommendations that come out of this planning study come to fruition.

**Motion for the Transportation Commission to endorse the USDOT FY 2024 RAISE funding application:** Commissioner McManus  
**Second:** Commissioner Catherwood  
**Motion carries unanimously.**

5. **ACTION ITEM: Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Grant Applications**

**ISSUE:** The City is proposing to apply for the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) FY 2025 Grant Programs.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission move to provide a letter of endorsement to City Council for FY 2025 DRPT State Aid Program Grant Applications through DRPT and NVTC:

- Up to \$37,000,000 in eligible expenses for State Aid Transit Operating Assistance
- Up to \$400,000 for State Aid Capital Assistance
- Up to \$350,000 for the Commuter Assistance Program (CAP)
- Up to \$110,000 for the Public Transportation Workforce Development Program
- Up to \$315,000 for the Demonstration Project Assistance Program
- Up to \$500,000 for the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP)

**DISCUSSION:** Chris Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief presented information on six DRPT Grant applications.

The City and DASH plan to submit applications for six 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.

**Motion for the Transportation Commission to endorse letter to City Council in support of six DRPT grant applications: Vote called by Chair McMahon**  
**Motion carries unanimously.**

6. **ACTION ITEM: MWCOCG Technical Assistance Grants**

**ISSUE:** The City is proposing applications for two Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) Technical Assistance Grants for FY 2025: one for the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program and one for the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP).

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission move to provide a letter of endorsement to City Council for the proposed grant applications to the FY 2025 Transportation Land-Use Connections Program and Regional Roadway Safety Program.

**DISCUSSION:** Chris Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief presented an overview of two MWCOG Technical Assistance Grants

*Transportation Land - Use Connections Program* - The City proposes to request technical assistance for the outreach and design of multimodal corridor improvements on Edsall Road between South Pickett Street and the City boundary. This corridor provides access to high-density residential communities, commercial and retail uses, mixed uses, Armistead Boothe Park, and public transportation, including the future West End Transitway. The project would include data collection, analysis, community engagement, and conceptual design planning for corridor improvements on Edsall Road to enhance mobility, access, safety, and comfort for all roadway users.

*Regional Roadway Safety Program* - The City proposes a request for technical assistance to study safety improvements along Seminary Road between North Beauregard Street and the City boundary. The project would include planning and conceptual design for corridor improvements on Seminary Road to enhance safety and comfort for all roadway users, including improvements to intersections, traffic signals, and lane configuration. In 2023, staff worked with the community to better understand concerns along this roadway and implemented some short-term solutions. Data was collected in fall 2023, and further analysis is needed to understand the feasibility of various design options that can improve safety along this corridor.

Both projects support strategies in the Alexandria Mobility Plan and address MWCOG Transportation Planning Board (TPB) priorities. These projects will result in the selection of a preferred design alternative which could then advance for further design. If funded, the project award would occur in Spring 2024, and projects would last from Fall 2024 to June 2025. Applications are due March 8, 2024.

**Motion for the Transportation Commission to provide a letter of endorsement to City Council for the proposed grant applications to the FY 2025 Transportation Land-Use Connections Program and Regional Roadway Safety Program:** Commissioner Kane  
**Second:** Commissioner Catherwood  
**Motion carries unanimously.**

7. **DISCUSSION ITEM: Draft Annual Workplan**  
**ISSUE:** Consideration of the Draft 2024 Workplan.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission receive the Draft 2024 Workplan and provide feedback.

**DISCUSSION:** Chris Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief, discussed the Draft 2024 Workplan with the Transportation Commission.

8. **Commissioner updates**

**Commissioner Catherwood** – Attended City presentations to neighborhood civic

associations about the Duke Street and W Taylor Run intersection project and the access roads between Cambridge Road and Telegraph Road. Attended City presentation in December. The communities do not appear to agree with the upcoming projects.

**Commissioner Kane** – Stop sign on Cameron Street and Payne Street approved. Eisenhower West Landmark Van Dorn Implementation advisory group provided updates on projects.

**Commissioner Lovain** – Contacted members of council and state legislators on connecting the entertainment district plans and long-range Metro funding.

**Commissioner McMahon** – Planning Commission discussed grid for collection of neighborhoods not being centered around cars.

**Commissioner McManus** – Attend the Dash Bus Advisory Committee meeting. They are moving forward on electric buses. Vendor is secure.

**Councilman McPike** – Entering budget season. Facing fiscal crunch. Arena concerns are about transportation.

**9. Items of Consent**

- MUTCD Updates

**10. Other Business**

**11. Adjournment**

At 9:29 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 – ELECTIC VEHICLE PLANNING

---

**ISSUE:** Staff from the Office of Climate Action to provide update and information to Transportation Commission on electric vehicles.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission receive this presentation.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 21, 2024

**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM #4 – WMATA BUDGET

---

**ISSUE:** Consideration of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) FY25 Operating and Capital budgets.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission submit a letter to provide feedback on the FY25 budget.

**BACKGROUND:** On February 8th, the WMATA Board authorized Public Hearings on the Proposed FY2025 Operating and Capital Budget and FY2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program. The revised budget differs significantly from the General Manager's Proposed Budget, as draconian service cuts to rail and bus are largely avoided, fares are set to increase by 12.5% (20% was the original proposal), and the proposed closure of low-ridership stations has been scrapped.

Public hearings will occur in late February 2024, with anticipated budget adoption in April 2024, and implementation by the start of FY 2025.

**DISCUSSION:** FY 2025 Proposed Operating Budget includes revenue of \$487 million, expenses of \$2,352 million, total subsidy of \$1,769 million, and \$95 million of federal relief funding.

The FY25 operating budget gap of \$750 million is proposed to be closed by a combination of revenue increases, expense reduction techniques (such as one-time cost saving measures, wage and hiring freezes, etc.), a temporary lifting of the 3% cap on operating subsidy growth, and increased funding assistance by Compact partners.

The District of Columbia (\$200 million) and the State of Maryland (\$150 million) have publicly communicated providing additional subsidy dollars to help cover the operating budget gap. The Commonwealth has budget amendments moving through the General Assembly which would provide an additional \$130 million in assistance, which would require a 50% match by jurisdictional partners.



As mentioned above, the proposed operating budget avoids large service and frequency cuts to Metrobus and Metrorail, increases fares by 12.5% on Metrobus, Metrorail, and MetroAccess, and increases fares by up to 25% on late nights and weekends (\$2.50 cap).

Key rail service changes impacting Alexandria include a reduction in peak-period frequency windows from the current 4-hour periods in the morning and afternoon to 2-hour windows, slightly reducing Yellow Line frequencies on weekends, more 6-car trains, and the exploration of more service reductions on Federal Holidays (days with historically low-ridership). No bus service changes are expected in FY25, though the Better Bus network and formula is expected to be finalized in FY25 and implemented in FY26.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Transportation Commission highlight the following themes related to the FY25 Metro operating budget:

- Prioritize consistent bus and rail service and frequencies to continue ridership recovery and reduce reliance on driving
- Commend WMATA for aggressive cost-saving measures
- Accept fare increases as necessary to keep up with higher costs (fares have not been raised in several years)

### **Additional Operating Budget Comments**

- Accept short-term increased subsidy as necessary
- Prioritize reducing or eliminating the need for additional measures for the projected FY26 operating gap

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Draft Letter of Feedback on WMATA Budget



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

WMATA Board of Directors  
300 7<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, DC 20024

February 21, 2024

Re: WMATA FY25 Budget Comments

Dear WMATA Board of Directors:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed FY25 budget on behalf of the City of Alexandria's Transportation Commission. We applaud the proposed budget's delicate balance of aggressive cost saving proposals, targeted service reduction techniques, and reasonable fare increases.

The Commission appreciates the revised FY25 operating budget avoids many of the draconian cuts to Metrorail and Metrobus service and frequencies called for in the General Manager's proposed budget. At a time when transit ridership is increasing across the region, reliable service and convenient frequencies must continue to serve all riders.

The Commission also understands the need for the new proposal to increase fares in order to keep the pace with inflation and supports the installation of system-wide faregates to reduce fare evasion, though we must emphasize that these measures need to be in lockstep with increased use of Metro Lift and Senior reduced fare programs to help our riders in need.

WMATA's request for more subsidy funding from jurisdictional partners at the local level would normally cause concern, especially while accepting existing or reduced service levels. However, the Commission understands that the FY25 operating budget shortfall is a regional issue which requires a regional solution from all partners.

Looking ahead, the Commission urges WMATA to pay special attention to the future budgets because of the absence of dedicated funding, and to continue to work closely with compact

partners and jurisdictions to look at alternative funding options. The goal is to ensure that transit continues to serve the region's transportation needs and contributes to congestion reduction, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and equity for all well into the future.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon  
Transportation Commission Chair

Cc: City Manager James F. Parajon  
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES  
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES  
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, T&ES  
Silas Sullivan, Urban Planner II, T&ES

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #6 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

---

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

### **A. Annual Work Plan**

The Annual Work Plan was updated based on the Commission's feedback in January. See Attachment 1.

### **B. No Turn on Red on St. Asaph Street**

At its January 22 meeting, the Traffic and Parking Board approved No Turn on Red (NTOR) restrictions on North Saint Asaph Street at four signalized intersections:

- Pendleton Street
- Wythe Street
- Madison Street
- Montgomery Street

The NTOR treatments will be accompanied by Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) to help reduce crashes and protect pedestrians along this mixed-use corridor. NTOR and LPI treatments along North Saint Asaph Street will help toward achieving the City's Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2028.

Implementation of the NTOR restrictions is planned immediately.

### **C. Sanger Avenue Improvements**

City staff is working on providing safety and cycling mobility improvements along Sanger

Avenue as part of the upcoming paving project. The focus is on providing additional and safer pedestrian crossings, daylighting intersections due to pedestrian crashes and vehicular angle crashes and providing more buffer space for pedestrian and cyclists under the I-395 bridge near Van Dorn Street. Staff will share more information with community and present to the Traffic and Parking Board this Spring.

#### **D. Capital Bikeshare Highest Ridership Year**

The Capital Bikeshare system hit record ridership numbers, both systemwide and in the City of Alexandria in 2023. The system rebounded from the decline in ridership seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of trips taken by bikeshare has grown steadily since 2021 and 2023 was the highest ridership year for Capital Bikeshare in Alexandria to date. In 2023, 109,487 Capital Bikeshare trips started and/or ended in the City. Additionally, Capital Bikeshare had the highest average number of trips taken per day in 2023 with an average of 300 trips per day.

Capital Bikeshare ridership in the City can be viewed through the [Capital Bikeshare Trip Data Dashboard](#).

This matches the City's success with DASH ridership as well, which saw its highest ridership year in history in FY23. The City is seeing real results from its investments in multimodal transportation.

#### **E. AlexWest Small Area Plan Update**

On Monday, March 4, City staff will hold a virtual public meeting to discuss all the recommendations of the AlexWest Small Area Plan, including transportation and street layout recommendations.

For background, in Fiscal Year 2023, [City Council prioritized this planning process](#) to update the long-term vision for the [1992 Alexandria West Small Area Plan](#) and integrate the [2012 Beauregard Small Area Plan](#). Creating an updated community vision allows us to proactively plan for change and prepare for challenges and opportunities in the years to come.

An updated Plan will:

- Enable the 10- to 30- year-old land use plans to be updated comprehensively to address current community needs and incorporate current City policies and best practices;
- Address the issue of housing vulnerability and affordability by leveraging housing resources, policies, and funding opportunities to meet this challenge; and
- Develop an approach to guide and shape future development and make expectations clear for the community, City and developers.

In November 2023, staff held a public meeting to discuss transportation elements of the plan.

## **F. AlexMoves Multimodal Survey Update**

In late 2023, the City partnered once again with the polling and research firm [Polco](#) its bi-annual AlexMoves travel survey to gain insight into how Alexandrians get around the City. This survey was the fourth of its kind and provides important information to help the City understand how its residents travel for all types of trips (not just the daily commute). In turn, this will help the City monitor changes over time and plan better for all transportation users. The City received the final report in January of 2024 and will present to the Commission later this year.

Below are just a few short takeaways from the survey:

- a. The addition of more off-street multi-use paths and trails could positively impact on how often residents walk or bike.**
  - i. About 3 in 4 respondents somewhat or strongly agreed they would walk more if there were more street lighting after dark or if there were more off-street walking options such as multi-use trails/paths.
  
- b. Residents report that public transportation is less convenient than other forms.**
  - i. When asked what might increase their use of public transportation, survey participants said that time and convenience were the biggest issues, with crime, cost, comfort, and child accommodations as lesser concerns.

## **G. Shirlington Circle Project Update**

Through a partnership between the City, VDOT, and Arlington County, the I-395 interchange at the Shirlington Circle is being evaluated through an Operational and Safety Analysis Report (OSAR) to advance the 2020 preferred recommendation from the I-395 Shirlington Interchange Improvements Study. The OSAR documentation will include potential design and operational improvements and understand the impact to the surrounding transportation network.

Currently, conceptual designs have been developed and are being evaluated to determine the impacts to travel behavior and the operation of the network. Once more information is provided, outreach to community will be scheduled. Preliminary schedule for outreach is in the Spring. For more information about the 2020 study, more information can be found at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/northern-virginia-district/i-395-shirlington-interchange-improvements-study/>

## **H. Glendale Contraflow Bicycle Lane**

The City of Alexandria recently completed installation of its first contra-flow bike lane on East Glendale Avenue between Mount Vernon Avenue and Leslie Avenue. This new contra-flow bike lane provides easy and safe access for cyclists between Del Ray and the Potomac Yard Trail.

Planning, design, and outreach for the contra-flow bike lane started in the spring of 2023 in response to community feedback and Safe Routes to School Walk Audit observations made at George Washington Middle School (GMWS) earlier that year. In addition to the contra-flow bike lane, the final design included shared-lane markings (sharrows), and new high-visibility crosswalks and ADA ramps.

City staff are currently preparing materials to inform the public about how to safely use this new cycling infrastructure. They are also coordinating with Alexandria City Public Schools and staff at GWMS to ensure that the students who bike to and from school via East Glendale Avenue are doing so safely. This bike facility completes a segment of new bicycle infrastructure called for in the Pedestrian and Bicycle chapter of the Alexandria Mobility Plan (2021).

## 2024 Transportation Commission Work Plan - DRAFT

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
								BREAK				
<b>Transportation Commission</b>												
Retreat												
Chair/Vice Chair Election												
Transportation Long-Range Plan												
Discussion Items	Trails	EVs	MOTs		Bus Shelters?							
<b>City Planning Studies</b>												
Interdepartmental Long Range Work Plan												
Repaving Update												
West End Transitway												
AlexWest												
Arena Planning												
King -Bradlee Safety & Mobility												
Duke Street In Motion												
<b>Transportation Funding</b>												
City Budget												
NVTA 70% Funds												
SMART SCALE												
CMAQ/RSTP Grant												
DRPT Transit Assistance and CAP grants												
FTA Grants												
RAISE Grant												
Federal/State Grants (as needed)												
Transportation Alternatives Program												
VDOT Revenue Sharing Grant												
Grants Dashboard												
I-395 Commuter Choice Grant												
MWCOG Technical Assistance Grants												
<b>Transportation Programs</b>												
Vision Zero Action Plan Implementation												
Complete Streets												
Safe Routes to School												
Trails												
Automated Enforcement Tools												
Alexandria Mobility Plan Implementation												
Capital Bikeshare and Micromobility Update												
Transportation Management Plan (TMP) Update												
Paratransit Program Update												
FY25 Alexandria Transit Strategic Plan (ATSP)												
Smart Mobility / Parking Technologies												
<b>Regional Projects / Plans</b>												
State Legislative Process												
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority												
VDOT I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study												
Bus Transformation Project (WMATA)												
Endorsement of Envision Route 7 BRT Strategic Implementation Plan (NVTC)												
King St Bus Study												
WMATA Budget												

Discussion Item  
 Action Item  
 Consent Item  
 Not discussed this year