



*Transportation Commission Meeting*

**November 20, 2024**

**7:00PM**

**VIRTUAL- ZOOM**

**AGENDA**

1. Public Comment (Not to exceed 10 min) 7:00-7:05
2. Minutes of the October 16 meeting 7:05-7:07
3. **Informational Item:** Eco-City Homes Program Presentation 7:07-7:15
4. **Public Hearing:** Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvements (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Grant Application 7:15-7:35
5. **Public Hearing:** Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Grant Applications 7:35-8:00
6. **Commissioner Updates** 8:00-8:15
7. **Written Items** 8:15-8:30
  - A. Eisenhower Avenue Transportation Improvements
  - B. Duke Street
  - C. Bus Stop Benches
  - D. Bus Stop ADA Improvements
  - E. Hickory/Kennedy Roundabout
  - F. Pedestrian Lighting Improvements Study
  - G. Pedestrianization of the 200 Block of King Street
8. **Other Business** 8:30-8:45
  - A. December Meeting
  - B. Informational Items for Annual Work Plan Next Year
  - C. Pickett Street – Verbal Update

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

*Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, December 18, 2024*

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The November 20, 2024, meeting of the Transportation Commission is being electronically. 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/j/92808133131>

Or by phone: 301 715 8592  
Meeting ID: 928 0813 3131  
Passcode: 859468

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 11/20/2024 to [emilie.wolfson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:emilie.wolfson@alexandriava.gov).

The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of ADA. An individual with a disability who wishes to request 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

October 16, 2024  
7:06 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Melissa McMahon, Vice Chair Matthew McManus, Commissioner Leslie Catherwood, Commissioner Dan Beattie, Commissioner Jody Manor, Commissioner Jim Maslanka

**Staff Present:** Christopher Ziemann – Transportation Planning Division Chief, Emilie Wolfson – Long Range Transportation Program Manager, Alexandria Carroll – Complete Streets Program Manager

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 00:01:20**

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

**Second:** Commissioner McManus

**Motion Carries 5-0** (Commissioner Jody Manor Absent from Vote)

**2. June Minutes 00:03:08**

**Motion to approve minutes for the June 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Commissioner McManus

**Second:** Commissioner Maslanka

**Motion Carries 5-0** (Commissioner Jody Manor Absent from Vote)

**3. September Minutes 00:05:07**

**Motion to approve minutes for the September 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Commissioner Beattie

**Second:** Commissioner Catherwood

**Motion Carries 5-0** (Commissioner Jody Manor Absent from Vote)

**4. Public Hearing: Consideration of Grant to the I-395 Commuter Choice Program 00:06:38**

Chris Ziemann provided an overview of the I-395 Commuter Choice Program Grant, which is a grant program for transit related benefits related to toll roads along I-395. The benefits must in some way benefit toll payers. DASH has been successful in previous years of funding. We are proposing to apply for this grant again for a total of up to \$13 million, or \$6.5 million per year.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission provide a letter of endorsement to City Council for the I-395 Commute Choice Grant Program

**Questions**

**Commissioner Maslanka** 00:10:39  
**Commissioner Beattie** 00:11:03

**Motion to Close Public Comment:** Commissioner Catherwood 00:12:47  
**Second: Commissioner Maslanka**  
**Motion Carries 5-0** (Commissioner Jody Manor Absent from Vote)

**Discussion**

**Commissioner McManus** 00:13:33  
**Chair McMahan** 00:13:49

**Motion to endorse grant application:** Commissioner Maslanka 00:14:41  
**Second:** Commissioner Beattie  
**Motion Carries 5-0** (Commissioner Jody Manor Absent from Vote)

**5. Discussion Item: Complete Streets, Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School Update** 00:15:28

Alex Carroll provided an annual update on the complete streets program, which includes Vision Zero, multi-use trails, complete streets and safe routes to school and all the work that has been done over the last year as well as upcoming efforts that are on the horizon.

**6. Action Item: FY2026 Budget Priorities** 01:08:28

Emilie Wolfson provided an overview of the City Budget Priorities for the FY26 City Budget. She first discussed the focus areas which included navigating financial sustainability of CIP, employment compensation, race and equity social initiatives, public safety programs and investment in education, stabilizing affordable housing, a diversification of the taxbase, and reducing required borrowing and associated debt. An overview of the FY25 TC Budget Priorities was also given which includes:

- 1) Ensuring continuous and sustainable WMATA regional transit service
- 2) Implementing the transit Vision Plan, with more DASH and a focus on regional connectivity
- 3) Staffing and resources for Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School, including more protected bike infrastructure to make biking feasible for more people for short trips
- 4) Fully repairing and maintaining Alexandria's multi-use trail system in a state of good repair, for many people rely on it just as others do on the road.

**Discussion**

**-Chair McMahan:** Is there still a looming budget shortfall for WMATA. 01:12:16  
-Better Bus Network: Do we have a sense of redesign similar in nature?

**-Commissioner Maslanka:** WMATA has a serious funding problem 01:22:30  
-The city has to look at allocating some money towards the amount of subsidies for WMATA

**-Commissioner Catherwood** 01:28:00  
-Last year's letter seems like an excellent starting point

**-Chair McMahon** 01:28:45  
-A major budget challenge or new plan might make a change to priorities, but it's okay to have the same priorities if there have not been drastic changes from year to year

**-Commissioner Beattie** 01:29:19  
-From last year's letter on the comprehensive review of the trail system, was that funded in the current budget system?

**-Chair McMahon** 01:39:30  
-Restating budget priorities from last year with minor tweaks. Commissioner McManus brought up edits to the first bullet about better network to make sure the city is responsive to the commissioners. The following are the priorities from last year, with minor tweaks:

- 1) Ensuring continuous and sustainable WMATA regional transit service and making sure the Better Bus network fully represents the needs of our residents.
- 2) Implementing the Transit Vision Plan with more DASH and a focus on regional connectivity.
- 3) Staffing and resources for Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School including more protected infrastructure to make biking feasible for more people for short trips,
- 4) Fully repairing and maintaining a state of good repair Alexandria's multi-use trail system.

**Motion to allow the Chair to work with staff to develop a letter by November 1 to provide for the City Manager summarizing budget priorities discussed by the Commission:** Commissioner McManus 01:43:30  
**Second:** Commissioner Maslanka  
**Motion Carries 6-0**

**7. Commissioner Updates** 01:44:02

**-Commissioner Beattie** 01:44:29  
Commended Chair for her work on the legislative letter and coordination with Environmental Policy Commission.

**-Commissioner Catherwood** 01:45:49  
-Did not provide any updates

**-Commissioner Manor** 01:46:13  
-Do not enter signs that are on the bollards of the entrance to the unit block and 100 block of King Street are not a very friendly appearance for our visitor economy. We should do everything we can to do to encourage our visitor economy.  
-It was discussed that Chris will put Commissioner Manor in touch with the traffic management division chief to discuss what alternatives exist.

**Commissioner Maslanka** 01:50:45  
-Did not provide any updates

**Chair McMahon** 01:50:51

-Did not provide any updates

**Commissioner McManus**

**01:50:54**

-Applauded the continued roll out of EVs and encouraged the city to plan for city EV charging. It will not happen unless the Transportation Commission encourages the city.

**8. Written Items**

**01:52:55**

-No items were pulled from written items

**9. Chair and Vice Chair Elections**

**01:53:08**

-Chair McMahon said she would be happy to serve for another term, which maxes out at two terms, so she has one more potential year that she could serve as Chair and Vice Chair McManus could also serve as Vice Chair for another year. Discussed that the nice thing is that it does intend to rotate. Vice Chair McManus also indicated that he also would be happy to serve for another term.

**Motion that Commissioner McMahon serve as Chair and Commissioner McManus Service as Vice Chair:** Commission Catherwood

**01:54:39**

**Second:** Commissioner Maslanka

**Motion Carries 6-0**

**10. Other Business**

-Duke Street Transportation Commission Letter of Reaffirmation

**01:56:30**

-December Meeting

**01:58:05**

-Virtual Meeting for the Remainder of the Year

**01:58:19**

-Discussed having a virtual meeting in November and revisit December's meeting.

At 9:10 pm, the Transportation Commission adjourned.

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: November 20, 2024

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 – Eco-City Homes Initiative

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**ISSUE:** Update on the Eco-City Homes Initiative

**BACKGROUND:** Staff from the City of Alexandria’s Climate Action Office will present information on the City’s new Eco-City Homes initiative. Eco-City Homes is a central hub for all things home sustainability, with information and resources to help you save money and energy and have a comfortable and healthy home—including how to qualify for up to thousands of dollars in tax incentives. There’s also a recognition program to celebrate actions that Alexandrians are already taking. Qualifying for recognition is easy: you just need to fill out a short survey at home, and we’ll recognize the work you’ve already done and help you plan out the next steps! Visit [alexandriava.gov/eco-city-alexandria/program/eco-city-homes](https://alexandriava.gov/eco-city-alexandria/program/eco-city-homes) for more.

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

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2024

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 – CMAQ/RSTP GRANT APPLICATION

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**ISSUE:** The City is proposing to apply for the FY 2031 CMAQ/RSTP program

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission endorse a letter to City Council in support of the FY 2031 CMAQ/RSTP funding application (Attachment 1).

**BACKGROUND:** Since 1993, the Commonwealth of Virginia has allocated CMAQ and RSTP funding to the Northern Virginia region. CMAQ funded projects must meet three eligibility requirements: 1) have a transportation focus, 2) reduce air emissions, and 3) be located in or benefit a nonattainment or maintenance area.

RSTP funds are flexible funds that may be used for a variety of regional transportation activities, including but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, transit capital projects, and transportation or transit studies.

**DISCUSSION:** Staff propose submitting the two projects listed below for FY 2031 funding. These projects, as well as the prior year CMAQ/RSTP funding awards, are shown in Attachment 2. The City’s funding request for FY 2031 is up to \$5.5M and includes the following projects:

FY 2031 CMAQ/RSTP Proposed Program

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>FY 2031</b>
Safe Routes to School	\$2,000,000
Citywide Bus Bulbs	\$3,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,500,000</b>

Safe Routes to School

The Safe Routes to School Walk Audits identified several recommendations that are capital intensive, such as curb extensions or median improvements. This funding complements FY 2030



funding and will support the implementation of the safety recommendations, which will be prioritized closer to the time the funding is available. Currently, more than half of the Safe Routes to School recommendations have been implemented, but many of the remaining items are larger, more capital-intensive infrastructure upgrades that require more substantial funding.

**Proposed Funding: Up to \$2,000,000**

#### Citywide Bus Bulbs

Bus bulbs are a proven way to increase bus speed and to improve the rider's experience by providing more space for amenities such as benches and shelters. This funding would support priorities in the Alexandria Mobility Plan (AMP) and the Alexandria Transit Vision Plan and would allow for planning, design and construction of bus bulbs throughout the City. There have been a few projects across the City to install bus bulbs on key transit corridors, such as Mount Vernon Avenue, but the City is currently utilizing temporary configurations for locations where funding is not available to fully construct this infrastructure. While the specific locations will be determined closer to the time funding is available, upgrading temporary bus bulbs would be prioritized.

**Proposed Funding: Up to \$3,500,000**

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: DRAFT Transportation Commission Endorsement Letter

Attachment 2: FY 2025 - FY 2030 CMAQ/RSTP Approved and FY 2031 Proposed Funding



Alexandria Transportation Commission  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

[www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov)

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

November 20, 2024

Re: Endorsement of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvements (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Project Funding Request for FY31

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its November 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the CMAQ and RSTP Project Funding Request for FY31 for up to \$5.5 million. We enthusiastically support funding for multi-modal transportation projects which have many goals, including reducing air pollutants in nonattainment areas such as the Washington region. The City's request for FY31 includes funding for Safe Routes to School and Citywide Bus Bulbs.

FY 2030 CMAQ/RSTP Proposed Program

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>FY30</b>
Safe Routes to School	\$2,000,000
Citywide Bus Bulbouts	\$3,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,500,000</b>

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon  
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission  
City Manager James F. Parajon  
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES  
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES

DRAFT

**CMAQ/RSTP FY 2025-FY 2030 Program & FY 2031 Proposed**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>PRIOR YEAR</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>FY29</b>	<b>FY30</b>	<b>FY31 Proposed</b>	<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>
West End Transitway Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,293,748	\$ -	\$ 3,293,748
Duke Street Transitway Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,756,473	\$ 3,350,554	\$ 4,164,995	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,272,022
Alexandria Bus Shelters	\$ 2,186,753	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,186,753
Transportation Demand Management	\$ 6,002,193	\$ 500,000	\$ 423,865	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,926,058
Alexandria Commuter Outreach	\$ 1,200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000
Bike Sharing Initiative	\$ 2,520,187	\$ -	\$ 412,092	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,932,279
ITS Integration (SMART MOBILITY)	\$ 3,840,111	\$ 2,434,768	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,274,879
SMART Mobility Implementation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,977,269	\$ 1,048,116	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,025,385
DASH Technology (CAD/AVL upgrade)	\$ 1,705,745	\$ 1,515,124	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,220,869
King-Bradlee Safety & Mobility Enhancements (Design)	\$ 3,016,899	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,016,899
Parking Technologies	\$ 2,062,190	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,062,190
Mount Vernon Avenue at Glebe	\$ 4,067,778	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,067,778
City of Alexandria Transportation Master Plan FY 2030 Update	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750,000
New Scheduling Software for DASH	\$ 477,568	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 477,568
Multimodal Access Study	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
DASH Charging	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
Safe Routes to School	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,500,000
Citywide Bus Bulbs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000
<b>CMAQ/RSTP Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 37,408,154</b>	<b>\$ 4,449,892</b>	<b>\$ 4,813,226</b>	<b>\$ 4,804,589</b>	<b>\$ 4,550,554</b>	<b>\$ 4,914,995</b>	<b>\$ 5,293,748</b>	<b>\$ 5,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 71,735,158</b>

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 20, 2024

**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM #5 – FY 2026 DRPT GRANT APPLICATIONS

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**ISSUE:** The City is proposing to apply for the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) FY 2026 Grant Programs.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission:

1. Endorse the attached letter (Attachment 1) in support of the following DRPT grant applications:
  - Up to \$40,000,000 in eligible expenses for State Aid Transit Operating Assistance;
  - Up to \$24,200,000 for State Aid Capital Assistance;
  - Up to \$200,000 for the Commuter Assistance Program (CAP);
  - Up to \$110,000 for the Public Transportation Workforce Development Program;
  - Up to \$100,000 for the Demonstration Project Assistance Program;
  - Up to \$500,000 for the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP)
  - Up to \$150,000 for free WMATA student fares (TRIP)
  - Up to \$100,000 for CAP Strategic Plan and Baseline Data Collection for the TMP

**BACKGROUND:** The City applies annually to the Virginia DRPT for grant funds that support transit operating assistance and capital expenses for DASH, Metro, DOT/Paratransit, and commuter outreach programs. 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. In FY 2025, some of these funds were used to promote DASH’s free fares and the all-day network. DASH also 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:

*FY 2025 MERIT - State Operating Assistance (State Aid Grant)*

City of Alexandria Transit Operating Assistance - (total eligible expenses – up to \$40,000,000):

Operating assistance to jurisdictions is allocated based on system size and system performance for both DASH and DOT paratransit. Operating costs have increased over the past few years due to labor and fuel costs. The amount the Commonwealth can provide in operating assistance varies annually but has typically been between 20% and 30%.

*FY 2025 MERIT - Capital Assistance (State Aid Grant)*

Hybrid Spare Parts – (up to \$200,000):

The Capital Assistance Program provides reimbursement to the City for a portion of the money spent on the purchase of transit capital assets. In FY 2026, DASH will purchase hybrid bus batteries and spare parts that will help maintain a safe and reliable fleet by extending the useful life of its hybrid buses. 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.

Bus Replacements – (up to \$12,000,000)

DASH currently has seven bus replacements planned for FY 2026. These are currently funded to be clean diesel buses. These funds would allow DASH to purchase electric buses instead, accelerating their electric bus conversion. The FY 2026 budget currently has nearly \$6.4 million available for bus replacement. Staff is seeking additional opportunities for funding and will likely submit well under the needed \$12 million but is requesting authority to apply for up to the fully needed \$12 million in case other sources are identified.

Major Expansion Project – (up to \$12,000,000)

The roof deck at the DASH Facility at 3000 Business Center Drive has aged more rapidly than anticipated and is in serious need of urgent repairs to address structural integrity issues. The CIP currently has approximately \$3 million appropriated for this project, but the costs have increased substantially. DASH is seeking DRPT funding to address these repairs.

*FY 2026 Commuter Assistance Program*

GO Alex – (up to \$200,000):

The Commuter Assistance Program grant provides reimbursement to the City for operating dollars spent on GO Alex programming and staffing. These funds will maintain current staffing and fund future programming such as promoting different transportation options in the City, including DASH, Metro, and Capital Bikeshare. A 20% local match is required.

*FY 2026 Public Transportation Workforce Development Program*

DASH Public Transit Workforce Development – (up to \$110,000):

This grant will allow DASH to continue developing transit workforce with either interns or apprentices in 2025. This grant will fund two positions and allow them to gain valuable experience in the public transportation industry. A 20% local match is required.

*FY 2025 Demonstration Project Assistance Program*

DASH Digital Mirror Technology – (up to \$100,000):

DASH is seeking to pilot the implementation of a mirrorless camera system that would help align with the requirements of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) by enhancing safety and visibility to reduce pedestrian and vehicle incidents. As DASH works towards full PTASP compliance, adopting this technology demonstrates the commitment to proactively addressing safety risks and improving operational safety in line with federal mandates. Additionally, this system reduces maintenance costs and vehicle downtime associated with traditional mirror repairs.

*FY 2025 Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP)*

Transit Access and Amenities – Up to \$500,000

Because the TRIP grant can be used to fund passenger amenities, this application would fund the design and/or construction of transit access and amenities Citywide, for example bus shelters, lighting, benches, bus arrival screens, ADA improvements, and other potential minor concrete work. This work builds on last year's TRIP award and complements the work of other efforts in the Bus Stop Program, such as ADA improvements and the Bus Shelter II project. These improvements would enhance safety, comfort, and convenience for transit riders, making the bus a more practical and convenient option to reduce SOV driving. Both the Alexandria Transportation Commission, and the ATC Board of Directors have been requesting that staff seek funding for transit access and amenities over the past few years. There is a 32% local match for these projects.

Free WMATA fares for Students – Up to \$150,000 per year

The City is interested in testing out an option for free fares on WMATA for middle and high school students. This program was very successful on the DASH network before DASH went completely fare free, and staff anticipates similar successes by expanding this program to WMATA services. Additionally, Arlington County also has a similar program. The benefits to the City are potentially easing crowding on school buses, a sense of independence for students, and the ability to gather anonymized trip data on this demographic, which is intentionally not included in other survey tools. There is a 32% local match, which would be paid for with the Transportation Management Plan Policy's Go Alex fund.

*FY 2026 Technical Assistance Grant*

Technical Assistant Grant – Up to \$100,000 per year

The City is interested in including a CAP Strategic Plan and Baseline Data Collection for the Transportation Management Program (TMP). On May 23, 2023, the City Council

adopted the TMP Policy which modifies the Transportation Management Plan requirement for new development. Under this new Policy, development is required to contribute to the GO Alex Fund to support various transportation management programs and policies. Developments are eligible for various credits to reduce their TMP fee and the payment requirement lasts for 30 years.

If approved by DRPT, funds would require formal adoption by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and incorporation into the state's six-year program in the spring of 2025. Funds would be available on or after July 1, 2025.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Operating and Capital Assistance funds provided by DRPT to jurisdictions do not require a local match, as these are treated as a reimbursement to localities for funds spent on transit. Funding will be allocated by a regional formula depending on which expenditures qualify for reimbursement; as such, the expected award or grant amount is unknown at this time. Based on the funding rates for FY 2025, the City could generally expect to be reimbursed around 24% percent for operating assistance and around 68% for capital assistance.

The estimated local match for the Workforce Development Program would require up to \$22,000, which would need to be identified in the FY 2026 budget or supplemental appropriation process. If the required local match is not available and DASH cannot determine a local match, the Alexandria Transit Company Board of Directors may withdraw, amend the grant applications, or decline to enter into the necessary agreements.

The local match for the Demonstration Project Assistance funds would require up to \$32,000, which has been already budgeted through Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) 30% in the DASH Technology CIP project.

The Commuter Assistance Program would require up to a \$40,000 local match. If the required local match is not available, the City may withdraw, amend the grant applications, or decline to enter into the necessary agreements.

For the TRIP grant, the total local match would require up to \$160,000 for the Transit Access and Amenities program, which could be funded by a combination of sources, including funding received by new developments under the Go Alex fund, any existing projects with local funding that could act as a match, or NVTA 30% funding. If the local match could not be identified for transit access and amenities, the City may withdraw or otherwise amend the grant applications. The Free WMATA Student fares would require a local match of up to \$48,000, which will be funded through the Go Alex fund or NVTA 30% funding. The Technical Assistance Grant for the CAP Strategic Plan and Baseline Data Collection for the TMP Program would require a local match of up to \$50,000, which could be funded through the Go Alex fund.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Draft 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  
November 20, 2024

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2026 DRPT Operating and Capital Assistance State Aid Applications, the Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant Applications, and the Transit Rider Incentive Program, and Approval of Required Matching Funds.

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its November 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff recommended funded requests through six DRPT grant programs:

**DRPT Operating Assistance**

- Up to \$40 million to offset the City's operating expenses for FY 2024 and provide greater support for DASH

**DRPT Capital Assistance**

- Up to \$24,200,000 to submit for reimbursement for the purchase and replacement of spare parts for hybrid and electric buses, replacement buses, and for major expansion and replacement of the roof deck. Reimbursements are typically funded between 60% and 68%.

**Commuter Assistance Program**

- Up to \$200,000 to fund two staff and programming.
  - This requires a \$40,000 local match

**Demonstration Project Assistance Program**

- Up to \$100,000 for Digital Mirror Technology
  - This requires a \$32,000 local match

### **Public Transportation Workforce Development Program**

- Up to \$110,000 to fund DASH professional development program.
  - This requires a \$22,000 local match

### **Transit Rider Incentive Program**

- Up to \$500,000 for bus stop amenities
  - This requires a \$160,000 local match
- Up to \$150,000 for free fares on WMATA for middle and high school students
  - This requires a \$48,000 local match

### **Technical Assistance Grant**

- Up to \$100,000 for CAP Strategic Plan and Baseline Data Collection for the Transportation Management Program (TMP)
  - This requires a \$50,000 local match (could use GO Alex funds)

These requests support goals in 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 2026 DRPT Grant requests.

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

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission  
City Manager James Parajon  
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES  
Josh Baker, General Manager, DASH  
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director of Transportation, T&ES

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 20, 2024  
**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
**FROM:** HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM # 7 – WRITTEN ITEMS

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**ISSUE:** Staff update to Transportation Commission on various projects.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission receive the written items.

### **A. Eisenhower Avenue Transportation Improvements**

At its July 22 Public Hearing, the Traffic & Parking Board made a unanimous recommendation to the Director of T&ES to implement roadway design improvements on Eisenhower Avenue between South Van Dorn Street and Holmes Run Trail. These include relocating left turns at the Eisenhower Avenue/Van Dorn Street intersection, installing a new sidewalk next to Van Dorn Metrorail Station, installing a two-way bike/scooter lane, and reducing the posted speed limit from 35 MPH to 25 MPH, among other improvements. Subsequent to the July 22 Public Hearing, a group of residents filed a petition to appeal the Board's decision to City Council.

City Council considered the appeal at its October 19 Public Hearing and voted 5-2 to support the Traffic & Parking Board's original recommendation and deny the appeal.

This project was the subject of two grant applications to implement improvements to Eisenhower Avenue. Award announcements are expected by Spring 2025.

### **B. Duke Street**

At the June 24th, 2024, meeting of the Traffic and Parking Board (TPB), members unanimously approved a recommendation to convert the Duke Street Service Road connecting Cambridge Road and West Taylor Run Parkway Intersection to one-way westbound operation to facilitate safer traffic operations, congestion management, and multimodal safety and accessibility improvements as part of the Duke Street Transitway Project. The TPB also approved a recommendation to modify the intersection of Cambridge Road and the Duke Street Service Road, which would improve traffic flow and reduce congestion (and is based on the one-way operation of the Service Road). Finally, a third recommendation was approved which modifies

the approved Duke Street Transitway concept to convert the right most lane of North Quaker Lane at Duke Street from a right turn only lane to a dedicated bus and right turn only lane to enable buses to jump traffic queues at this intersection.

City Council considered the resolution at its November 12 Public Hearing and voted 3-3 (1 abstention) whether to support the Traffic & Parking Board's recommendations. The Council introduced a new motion that brought back a partial one-way option from Longview Drive to Cambridge Road, which was approved by a vote of 6 to 1.

Procurement for Owner Advisor and Design Services is underway and expected to move forward in Winter/Spring 2025.

### **C. Bus Stop Benches**

Transportation Planning worked to identify high-ridership bus stops in need of benches. The first batch of benches were delivered and installed in September 2024. Additional benches will be installed at high-priority bus stops in the coming months. Benches have been proven to enhance passenger comfort, improve safety, and are beneficial to those with mobility/accessibility issues.

### **D. Bus Stop ADA Improvements**

Transportation Planning worked to identify 24 bus stops that require minimal work to bring them up to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and has identified the funding to do so. ADA improvements will include new concrete landing pads at 15 bus stops and parking removal at 9 bus stops. This work will be completed this Fall.

### **E. Hickory/ Kennedy Roundabout**

In mid-October the City completed installation of asphalt art at the neighborhood traffic circle at the intersection of Hickory Street and Kennedy Street. The neighborhood traffic circle was endorsed by the City's Traffic & Parking Board last year in response to community concerns about traffic safety. This asphalt art project is part of a partnership between T&ES and the Office of the Arts to leverage public art opportunities to advance the City's Vision Zero goals. Following the implementation of this demonstration project, the project task force will develop guidelines for future asphalt art installations in Alexandria including design standards, evaluation processes, maintenance, and more.



## **F. Pedestrian Lighting Improvements Study**

This summer, the City of Alexandria conducted a pedestrian lighting study to better understand the impacts of lighting on pedestrian crashes that occur at night. The study was awarded through a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Regional Roadway Safety Program technical assistance grant, examined five years of crash data and focused on areas with visibility-related incidents. Five locations were identified for further field analysis, which found that improved lighting at these locations would improve pedestrian visibility and safety, even after the conversion to LED lighting. Study recommendations include adopting updated lighting standards, prioritizing lighting improvements in high-risk areas, and regularly assessing crash data to identify locations where changing conditions may impact lighting and visibility at night.

## **G. Pedestrianization of the 200 Block of King Street**

At the September 10, 2024, City Council meeting, the Council requested staff to explore expanding the street closure to the 200 block of King Street through a temporary pilot program that could help evaluate the merits of a permanent closure. The street closure and pedestrianization of the unit and 100 blocks of King Street have been well received by the community and the businesses on these blocks. The extension to the 200 block is a natural continuation of this pedestrianized space and has been occasionally closed for short periods in connection with special events. However, there are some conditions on this block that warrant additional consideration prior to a permanent closure to vehicles and opening to pedestrians. Staff have proposed a two-phase pilot program to experiment with closing the block to vehicles and address specific issues as needed.

Phase 1 will cover the upcoming holiday season and run from November 22, 2024, to January 6, 2025. The block would be reopened to vehicles for the remainder of January and February during colder weather to allow for tweaks to the pilot program and address issues that arose during this first phase. The second phase would begin March 14, 2025, and run through September 30, 2025. This would allow time for more robust community engagement and if permanent

pedestrianization was supported, Council could take official action in September 2025.

The Traffic and Parking Board reviewed this proposal at the October 28, 2024, meeting and voted unanimously to support the temporary closure to vehicles and other associated parking changes related to this program. The Planning Commission also reviewed this proposal at the November 8, 2024, meeting and voted unanimously that they found the change in use of the street to be consistent with the City's Master Plan. The City Council reviewed the ordinance to approve the temporary pedestrianization pilot program at their meeting on November 12 and will hold a public hearing on November 16. If approved, staff will implement the pedestrianization of this block on Friday, November 22.