



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

www.alexandriava.gov

Mr. Mark B. Jinks
Acting City Manager
City Hall
301 King Street, Room 3500
Alexandria, VA 22314

February 20, 2015

Re: FY 2016-2025 Transportation Budget Prioritization

Dear Mr. Jinks:

At its February 18, 2015 meeting, City staff provided an overview to the Transportation Commission of operating and capital changes being considered in the draft FY 2016-2025 transportation budget. We understand that revenues are projected to come in lower than expected and the operating and capital program requests for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) are placing significant pressure on City funding sources and the transportation budget in particular.

While we understand the importance of funding WMATA, we are hopeful that your proposed budget will be able to fund additional transportation projects which are also critical to moving people efficiently, and promoting economic vitality in the City.

After a public hearing, the Commission voted to prioritize six projects under consideration for reduction or deferral, should additional funding become available for transportation projects.

The Commission's highest priorities include:

- DASH service and fleet expansion
- Capital Bikeshare expansion
- Van Dorn Metrorail Station Area Improvements

Lower priority projects include:

- Old Cameron Run Trail project
- Backlick Run Multi-Use Path
- Mt. Vernon Avenue/Russell Road Intersection

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These priorities are additional to the FY 2016-2025 budget guidance documented in the Transportation Commission's December 3, 2014 letter to the Mayor and City Council (See Attachment).

We appreciate your consideration of the Commission's input on your proposed FY 2016-2025 budget and look forward to commenting on the proposed budget once released in March.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan M. Macek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nathan" being the most prominent.

Nathan M. Macek
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

Attachment: December 3, 2014 Letter from Transportation Commission to the Mayor and City Council

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Emily A. Baker, Acting Deputy City Manager
Yon Lambert, Acting Director, T&ES
Nelsie L. Birch, Budget Director, OMB

**Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314**

Mayor William D. Euille and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

December 3, 2014

Re: FY 2016-2025 Budget Guidance

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council:

At its November 19, 2014 meeting, the Transportation Commission approved the following guidance to staff for preparation of the FY 2016 budget for inclusion in the City Manager's FY 2016 budget:

- Preserve the 2.2 cent transportation reservation in order to comply with maintenance-of-effort requirements, maintain flexibility, and to offset previous loss of state urban funds.
- Commit adequate operating funds to provide the project management, procurement, management and of staff resources necessary to implement new capital projects and programs. Consider capitalizing staff positions that are directly related to capital project implementation, as allowable, in order to utilize capital funds and reduce impacts on the operating budget.
- Maintain funding for highest priorities set by Transportation Commission.
- Allocate Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) 70% funds for high priority major capital investments with regional impacts, with an emphasis on leveraging non-city funds and/or accelerating project delivery.
- Utilize funding sources with least restrictions on project eligibility (i.e. CMAQ, RSTP, and NVTA 30% funds) for non-motorized projects, project development, ADA improvements, maintenance and operations.
- Pursue discretionary grant funding for transportation projects, including state capital assistance and federal New Starts, Small Starts, and TIGER grants.
- Ensure adequate funding for the Alexandria Police Department to enforce the proper use of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on Route 1 and Washington Street.
- Ensure that city transportation funding levels are maintained or increased above the maintenance-of-effort requirements of HB2313, to provide new transportation capacity and enhanced transportation services and programs while also maintaining existing assets in a state of good repair.
- Recognizing that regional transportation, including WMATA transit service is a priority

ATTACHMENT

that should not fall entirely on the transportation budget but rather a shared cost, the Council should explore opportunities to help fund the regional transit needs beyond the City's transportation resources.

This guidance prioritizes the preservation of the 2.2 cent transportation reservation, and the commitment of adequate operating funds for staff resources as the two highest priorities. It also reflects the additional responsibilities that come along with the regional and state funding available for transportation projects in FY2016 and beyond. The Transportation Commission encourages Council to allocate the resources necessary to ensure that these projects can be implemented on schedule and within budget, and to ensure that the City does not risk losing these funds.

We commend the Council on their ongoing commitment to funding multi-modal, sustainable transportation options in the City. We appreciate your consideration of the Commission's guidance on the proposed FY 2016 budget. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan M. Macek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nathan M. Macek
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: City Manager Rashad M. Young
Acting Director of Transportation and Environmental Services Yon Lambert
Alexandria Transportation Commission