

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2015

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: CARRIE SANDERS, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #6 - COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM UPDATE

ISSUE: Complete Streets Program update, accomplishments during 2015, and upcoming projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive an update on the Complete Streets Program.

BACKGROUND: Complete Streets is the term used to describe a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows for safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, riders and drivers of public transportation, as well as drivers of other motor-vehicles. In April 2014, City Council reenacted its Complete Streets Policy, which was originally drafted and initiated by the Alexandria Transportation Commission in 2011.

DISCUSSION: When a roadway project is altered through a development application, the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including resurfacing program or initiated by a citizen request, an evaluation of the street is conducted in order to determine the best way to accommodate all street users. Public outreach has been a crucial step in creating community consensus on the design of roadway projects. All major projects are vetted through a community engagement process that includes public meetings, project updates via email and posting up-to-date information on a project website.

Complete Streets Initiatives

In addition to requiring Complete Streets infrastructure with new development, City funding allows staff to implement many types of projects including:

- Access to parks, transit & schools
- Complete streets corridors
- Intersection safety improvements
- On-street bicycle facilities
- Sidewalks
- Traffic calming

Complete Streets 2015 Program Accomplishments

- A study to identify and improve pedestrian access to transit stops in Old Town and Del Ray was completed in 2015, and the design for improvements is currently

- underway;
- The Alexandria Complete Streets Design Guidelines are drafted and will be released in spring 2016;
- The City installed the region’s first Advisory Bike Lanes on Potomac Greens Drive;
- The King Street Bike Lane project received an award from the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) for The Best Bicycle Infrastructure in Virginia;
- The City installed 8 automated bicycle and pedestrian counters on trails around the City and one automated bicycle counter in an on-street bike lane;
- The City installed over five lane miles of on-street bicycle facilities.

Infrastructure Improvements in 2015

- Construction of approximately 1,530 feet of new sidewalk
- Installed pedestrian countdown signals at five intersections
- Installed rapid flash beacons for uncontrolled crosswalks at five locations
- Installed speed indicator signs along four roadways
- Installed speed cushions on two roadways that applied for traffic calming and met the criteria
 - Martha Custis Drive
 - West Abingdon Drive
- Installed 15MPH Flashing “School Zone” signs at five schools
- Installed new pedestrian infrastructure as part of the Safe Routes to School Program at Polk Elementary
- Major Complete Streets projects were completed along the following corridors:
 - **Monroe Avenue** (Mainline Boulevard to Russell Road): Project included new crosswalks with a rapid flashing beacon, curb extensions, bike racks, on-street bicycle lanes, additional parking, ADA compliant bus stops and speed indicator signs
 - **Wheeler Avenue** (Duke Street to South Gordon Street): Project included installation of on-street bike lanes
 - **Stevenson Avenue** (Whiting Street to Stulz Avenue): Project included upgraded crosswalks with a rapid flashing beacon, planted pedestrian refuge islands, on-street bicycle lanes, additional parking, ADA compliant bus stops and speed indicator signs
 - **North Hampton Drive** (Braddock Road to King Street): Project included new crosswalks, on-street bicycle lanes, additional parking and ADA compliant bus stops
- A major pedestrian safety intersection improvement project was installed at Taylor Run Parkway and Janney’s Lane. The project included a new sidewalk, curb extensions to slow turning vehicles, bus bulbs and ADA compliant bus stops, new crosswalks with a rapid flashing beacon and speed indicator signs.

Grant Funded Projects Update

- *Wilkes Street Bikeway (\$180,000)*: The City’s first Neighborhood Bikeway is complete
- *Old Cameron Run Trail (\$210,000)*: A feasibility study to determine a preferred

alignment for this trail was completed and design will begin when funds are available in FY 2017. Staff applied for a grant to fund construction;

- *Duke Street Sidewalk (\$1,210,000)*: The project, which includes new sidewalks from South Walker Street to Oasis Drive, is under construction;
- *Edsall Road and South Picket Street (\$445,000)*: The pedestrian improvement project which will include pedestrian countdown signals and improved street crossings was awarded for construction and is anticipated to begin in March 2016;
- *New Freedom Grant (\$400,000)*: Design for the project, which will provide ADA improvements to transit stops in Old Town, will be complete in spring 2016;
- *Access to Transit (\$1,237,500)*: A project to provide pedestrian and bicycle improvements at the intersection of King Street, Callahan Drive and Russell Road began the public engagement process;
- *Mount Vernon Trail at East Abingdon (\$750,000)*: This project, which includes improvements to the Mount Vernon Trail between Slaters Lane and Bashford Lane is in design;
- *Safe Routes to School (\$85,000)*: Staff applied for a “mini-grant” to pilot a walk-audit at one school and will be applying for a Transportation/Land-Use Connections grant to fund walk audits for all remaining schools in April 2016;
- *Bicycle Parking Citywide (\$130,000)*: This project will fund new bicycle parking throughout the city and will begin in spring 2016;
- *Bicycle Parking at Metro Stations (\$375,000)*: This project, which will design and construct bicycle parking at the Van Dorn Metro Station and will provide typical designs for bicycle parking along the West End Transitway, will begin in spring 2016.

Upcoming Infrastructure Projects (spring and summer 2016)

- **King Street** (Janney’s Lane to Radford Street): Staff has held two public meetings with the community regarding the redesign of King Street to provide multimodal improvements, and an online survey was posted to receive public input on the project. The project will likely include removal of travel lanes to provide major pedestrian improvements at intersections along the corridor and possibly bicycle improvements as well. A design concept will be determined this spring.
- **North Van Dorn Street** (Braddock Road to Menokin Drive): Major pedestrian safety improvements will be provided at the intersections with Braddock Road as well as Menokin Drive. The corridor will be redesigned to include bicycle lanes and pedestrian crossing improvements at bus stops. Staff has met with the community twice, and a design concept will be determined this spring.
- **Duke Street** (North Jordon Street to Quaker Lane): Pedestrian safety improvements will include upgraded crosswalks, curb ramps, pedestrian countdown signals and sidewalk improvements. This project will also include street crossing improvements at the intersection of South Ingram Street.
- **Cameron and Prince Streets** (King Street Metro to Waterfront): The installation of pedestrian signals along these corridors is complete. Bicycle lanes will be installed on both streets in conjunction with resurfacing in summer 2016.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY 2016 adopted Capital Improvement Program budget for Complete Streets is \$641,000, of which \$264,082 was allocated to fund staff positions. With the ongoing implementation of Complete Streets projects, all adopted funds for FY 2016, as well as any prior year funds for this project will be expended by the end of FY 2016. In FY 2016, the program will have expended twice the amount that was spent in FY 2015—nearly \$1.5 million—on pedestrian and bicycle improvements citywide.