

Alexandria Hotel Association

www.Funside.com

January 9, 2009

Richard Baier, P.E.
Motorcoach Task Force Chair
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The following are the comments regarding the recommendations reflected in the draft report issued on December 22, 2008.

Tour Bus Traffic to Hotels.

The recommendation on an overall basis addresses the concerns of the hotel community and will enable tour busses to load and unload at the hotel for arriving and departing guest.

Routes.

The recommended routes, while they seem to make sense based on the criteria they are based on, need careful monitoring to ensure that the routes in fact will accomplish the basic requirements.

- A.) To keep busses out of areas that are not suitable for tour busses.
- B.) Disburse traffic rather than concentrating it.
- C.) Give reasonable access attractions and business.

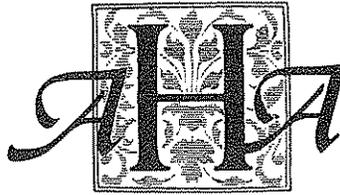
The eight streets listed as primary routes have the potential to provide a satisfactory solution. However as long as it is up to the driver to determine on the spur of the moments what route to take, the danger of concentrating traffic on a few streets will exist. The recommendation to implement a technology driven system that disburses tour bus traffic based on destination and traffic will be essential.

Advisory Committee.

Question: What entities will be presented on the Advisory Committee?

* A Proud Charter Member of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association *





Alexandria Hotel Association

www.Funside.com

Page 2

Voluntary Registration.

A step that will provide much needed accurate information rather than estimates that might be shaded by the different groups interests. However, the system should be web based and user friendly.

Short Term Parking.

The addition of Jamieson Avenues as short term tour bus parking will probably provide even more benefits then anticipated. For busses to have an appropriate location to park while the passengers enjoy Old Town, will significantly reduce the "driving around while waiting".

Education.

Absolutely essential and needs the solid support of industry and residents alike.

Enforcement.

By having a number of designated routes and parking areas, enforcement will be easier and more effective.

Sincerely,

Hubert Herre
Alexandria Hotel Association

cc: John Varghese

* A Proud Charter Member of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association *

