

City of Alexandria, Virginia

22
2-13-01

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR FY 2002 FUNDING FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE ALEXANDRIA RIDESHARE PROGRAM

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for funding for the continuation of the City's ridesharing program, ALEXANDRIA RIDESHARE.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council adopt the attached resolution (Attachment 1) and authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) submit the grant application and the resolution to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for funding, in the amount of \$140,080, for the continuation of the City's ridesharing service, ALEXANDRIA RIDESHARE;
- (2) approve the continuation of two full-time grant-funded positions (Transit Specialist I and Transit Services Assistant I) to administer the ongoing ALEXANDRIA RIDESHARE program. Continuation of these positions is contingent upon continuation of funding from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation or other non-City sources; and
- (3) execute all necessary documents that may be required under this program.

DISCUSSION: The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation has requested grant proposals for State Aid For Ridesharing Projects designed to decrease highway congestion and improve air quality. The State aid will finance 80 percent of administrative and other costs associated with the development, implementation and continuation of the City's approved ridesharing program.

The City has operated a ridesharing program since 1981, and each year has applied for and received funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia. ALEXANDRIA RIDESHARE is a part of the comprehensive transit and commuter services program administered and coordinated by the City's Office of Transit Services and Programs in the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. The primary goals of ALEXANDRIA RIDESHARE are to decrease the number of single occupant vehicles within the City, particularly during peak commuting hours, thus improving air quality and mobility; to utilize existing transit efficiently and to decrease the demand for parking.

To accomplish its goals, ALEXANDRIA RIDESHARE staff promote, encourage and advocate the use of alternative modes of commuting, such as carpools, vanpools, bicycles, teleworking and transit through the following activities:

- Providing commuters with carpool and vanpool matching through the program's affiliation with Commuter Connections, a network of regional ridesharing organizations sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments;
- Promoting all forms of public/private commuter transit, high occupancy vehicle lanes, park and ride facilities, teleworking and bicycling;
- Assisting developers, especially those of projects regulated by the City's Transportation Management Plan (Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance) with the development and implementation of programs that will reduce peak period single occupant vehicle trips associated with the project;
- Conducting promotions of alternative modes of transportation to residents, employers and employees at residential and business sites throughout the City, including City employees at new employee orientations;
- Advocating and supporting the development of programs and legislation that promote and provide incentives for the use of high occupancy modes of commuting, (e.g., the commuter tax benefit legislation in the 1992 Energy Bill and the Clean Air Act) and informing the public of these programs and legislation;
- Promoting the Metrochek employer-provided transit benefit program to Alexandria employers.

With the anticipated development in Alexandria, it is vital that the City have a program that will attempt to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles associated with both existing and upcoming employment and residential sites. Through the efforts of the Office of Transit Services and Programs, annually we assist about 1,300 Alexandria commuters into carpools, vanpools, transit, or biking or walking to work. Therefore, I recommend that the City continue the operation of the ALEXANDRIA RIDESHARE program.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total Ridesharing budget under this grant proposal is equal to \$175,100. To apply for this grant, the City must identify a 20 percent City contribution in the amount of \$35,020 to match the City's request to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for \$140,080 in State funds. The City's matching contribution to date for this program has been made available through City monies appropriated in the ridesharing program budget in FY 2001. A similar City match will need to be provided in FY 2002. It should be noted that there are no monies contemplated in the City budget to continue these activities if the grant funds at some point are no longer available.

The grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal office hours.

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment 1 - Resolution

STAFF:

Rich Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

Betsy Massie, Division Chief/Transit Services, T&ES

Paul DeMaio, Rideshare Coordinator/Transit Services, T&ES

Carol Moore, Acting Deputy Director, OMB

RESOLUTION NO.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the City Manager is authorized, for and on behalf of the City of Alexandria, hereafter referred to as the PUBLIC BODY, to execute and file an application to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia, hereafter referred to as the DEPARTMENT, for a grant of financial assistance in the amount of \$140,080 to defray the costs borne by the PUBLIC BODY for continuation of the ALEXANDRIA RIDESHARE program and to accept from the DEPARTMENT grants in such amounts as may be awarded, and to authorize the City Manager to furnish to the DEPARTMENT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant request.

The City Council certifies that the funds shall be used in accordance with the requirements of Section 58.1-638.A.4 of the Code of Virginia, that the PUBLIC BODY will provide funds in the amount of \$35,020, which will be used to match the state funds in the ratio as required in such Act, that the records of receipts of expenditures of funds granted the PUBLIC BODY may be subject to audit by the DEPARTMENT and by the State Auditor of Public Accounts, and that funds granted to the PUBLIC BODY for defraying the expenses of the PUBLIC BODY shall be used only for such purposes as authorized in the Code of Virginia. The undersigned duly qualified and acting as City Clerk of the PUBLIC BODY certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the City Council held on the 13th day of February 2001.

ADOPTED: _____
DATE

MAYOR

KERRY J. DONLEY

ATTEST:

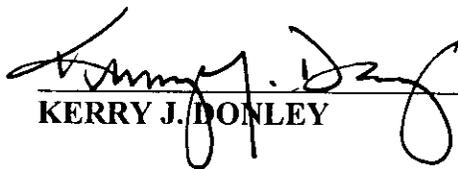
BEVERLY I. JETT, CMC CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 1992

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KERRY J. DONLEY MAYOR

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Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk