

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 4, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ISSUE: Consideration of an application to the Virginia Department of Transportation to fund a study to assess the transportation infrastructure needs of people with disabilities, pedestrians, and bicyclists and to develop a multi-year implementation program based upon this information.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to apply for this transportation planning grant, and authorize the City Manager to enter into agreements and accept it if it is awarded by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

DISCUSSION: This year, the Commonwealth instituted a new grant program which is targeted at four analysis areas. These are:

- Planning for special transportation needs of unique sectors of the community;
- Local transportation planning for alternative modes;
- Linking transportation and land use; and
- Prioritizations of local or regional transportation plan recommendations.

The program has been allocated \$1.6 million to be distributed throughout the Commonwealth in this year.

This opportunity has arisen at an excellent time for the City of Alexandria, since the City is placing a very high priority on the transportation needs of bicyclists and pedestrians in its recently approved Strategic Plan. The City is continuing its strong commitment to providing for the infrastructure needs of people with disabilities. The City is showing this commitment through funding a dedicated bicycle pedestrian coordinator. It is critical that this program have a comprehensive document which names and prioritizes all needs of non-motorized transportation.

The City's grant proposes that the City's infrastructure transportation needs will be assembled through field surveys and meetings with various concerned groups. After these needs are obtained, a methodology will be developed to prioritize the needs of all of the non-motorized modes of transportation. This will serve as the basis for a multi-year program for the City to begin to provide for these needs.

The grant proposal for \$120,000 was tentatively forwarded to the Virginia Department of Transportation in time for the grant's submission date of March 11, 2005. Since these grants are competitive, notifications of award will be announced on May 16, 2005.

FISCAL IMPACT: The proposed project does not require local matching funds from the City. The grant is provided entirely with Commonwealth funds.

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Assistant City Manager

Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

Thomas H. Culpepper, P.E., Deputy Director, T&ES

James Maslanka, Division Chief of Transit, T&ES