

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
WITH THE  
AD HOC TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

W.S.  
5-10-05

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2005  
5:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL WORK ROOM

AGENDA

- 1. Opening
  - Introductions
  - Summary of Council Resolution

William D. Euille, Mayor  
Larry Robinson, Task Force  
Chair
  
- 2. Task Force interpretation of Council Charge
  - More than just an update of the current plan
  - Five modes – Bus, Rail, Bike, Pedestrian, Auto
  - Citywide vs. zonal recommendations

Rich Baier, Director, TES  
Ad Hoc Transportation Task  
Force
  
- 3. Transportation Issues Defined
  
- 4. Transportation Vision Statement
  
- 5. Example Transit Solution Being Debated
  
- 6. Discussion
 

City Council and Ad Hoc  
Transportation Task Force
  
- 7. Task Force Next Steps and Final Products
 

Rich Baier  
Eileen Fogarty, Director,  
Planning and Zoning
  
- 8. Overview Community Pathways/Pedestrian/Bike Memos
 

Rich Baier  
Eileen Fogarty  
Kirk Kincannon, Director,  
Recreation, Parks and  
Cultural Activities
  
- 9. City Council Discussion

*Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the City Council Work Session may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 838-4500 (TTY/TDD 838-5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.*

W.S.  
5-10-05



<boydwalker@hotmail.com>

05/10/2005 11:21 AM

Please respond to  
<boydwalker@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com, delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net, councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com, macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com, rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov, tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com, delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net, councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com, macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com, rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov, tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Tue May 10, 2005 11:21:01] IP Address: [216.233.61.217]

Response requested:

**First Name:** Boyd  
**Last Name:** Walker  
**Street Address:** 922 Cameron St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-683-0067  
**Email Address:** boydwalker@hotmail.com  
Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council,

In advance of your work session tonight on Transportation I wanted to help you understand how Transportation infrastructure works. This is also a response to the work session last week and the presentation made by Tom Culpepper. In that presentation Tom Culpepper said that a building a Metro Station would cost 190 million because you would have to build two of them and that Light Rail would be far more expensive, at a cost of 340 million. I would like to dispel this myth. Then it was suggested that instead of building the

infrastructure on the raw land in Potomac Yard, we take some interim step, and wait ten years till there is enough demand for light rail, and at that time we would put it on Route 1 where there is plenty of room. Any one who drives Route 1 north of the Monroe Avenue Bridge, especially at rush hour, knows there is not enough room. Can anyone imagine that in ten years it will be any easier to shut down Route 1 to build the infrastructure for a rail system? Will it be any easier for pedestrians to cross even half of Route 1 to get to transit? This plan will doom having transit in the Potomac Yard Corridor. The transit needs to be built now within the new development, so that it meets the Arlington right of way and can be integrated for a regional transportation solution. I urge you not to approve Land Bay K in the Potomac Yard development without a Transit Right of way through all of Potomac Yard that meets the right of way in Arlington.

True Transit oriented design does not wait for demand, but creates it. An attractive Light Rail system creates demand. What is Light Rail?

<http://www.peopleformoderntransit.org/members/pmtadmin/home.nsf/>

To see what Light Rail looks like you can go to:  
[http://ottawa.ca/public\\_consult/lrt/look\\_en.shtml](http://ottawa.ca/public_consult/lrt/look_en.shtml).

One of the systems you will see is Portland's:

<http://www.lrt.org/art0110.html>,  
<http://www.portlandstreetcar.org>

Another is in Tacoma Washington:  
<http://www.lrt.org/art0110.html>

Pictures and Specifications can be seen at:

**Comments:** <http://www.lightrail.com/photos/portland/portlandstreetcar/portlandstreetcar.htm>

I think it is also important to look at some articles on the cost of Light Rail systems:

[www.lightrailnow.org/facts/fa\\_00018.htm](http://www.lightrailnow.org/facts/fa_00018.htm)

[http://www.lightrailnow.org/facts/fa\\_lrt02.htm](http://www.lightrailnow.org/facts/fa_lrt02.htm)

Hopefully these websites will give you a good picture of what light rail or streetcar transit could do in Potomac Yards and how it can be integrated into the infrastructure.

The generation that is now seeking housing wants to live near a metro station, but living in a Transit Oriented community will be even more attractive. Light Rail through the neighborhoods in Potomac Yards will create ridership. People who move into the new community will move there because of the proximity of transit. They will accept transit as part of the community, and it will help preserve the surrounding neighborhoods, especially Del Ray, but also Old Town. We cannot retrofit a transit system on a major north south highway, especially when we have the opportunity to plan smarter. Chris Zimmerman, from the Arlington County board has been promoting Light Rail for several years, and is hoping to bring the Skoda system to Arlington. I believe that the Anacostia Light Rail system, which recently decided to abandon its original rail alignment in order to pass through neighborhoods (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/04/27/AR2005042702078.html>), is also considering Skoda cars. In August of 1999, Chris Zimmerman and my mother, Former City Council Member Lois Walker held a news conference to promote Light Rail as the solution best suited for Potomac Yards (<http://www.his.com/~tmw/neca/transportation/lr.html>) It is amazing that 6 years later we still have an opportunity to achieve that goal. Communities across the country have seen the wisdom of including Transit within their new developments, and I am hopeful we will see the wisdom as well.

Sincerely,

Boyd Walker