

City of Alexandria, Virginia

5-9-06

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 4, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

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

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE WORKING DRAFT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FY 2007-2012 SIX-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR HIGHWAYS, RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

ISSUE: The City of Alexandria's request to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for revisions in project funding proposed in the working draft of the FY 2007-2012 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the attached letter to the CTB requesting certain revisions in the draft FY 2007-2012 SYIP (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: In October 2005, the City submitted to the CTB its annual request for allocation and programming of federal and state funds for transportation improvements as part of the State's FY 2007-2012 SYIP (Attachment 2). On April 20, 2006, the CTB released a working draft of its proposed SYIP. This draft program is based on revenue estimates that do not include any potential new State transportation revenues that have not yet been approved. As of the release of the draft SYIP, the General Assembly had not adopted a budget for FY 2007, and therefore had not determined new sources of transportation funding. Consequently revenue estimates for the draft SYIP were significantly lower than in recent years. The total transportation funding that will be available for the FY 2006-2012 SYIP cannot be determined in advance of an adopted FY 2007 State budget.

Compared to the FY 2006-2011 SYIP, total funding State-wide for urban system projects in the draft SYIP is reduced from \$0.9 billion to \$0.6 billion, a 33 percent decrease. For FY 2007, Alexandria's allocation fell from \$5.5 million to \$3.4 million, a 37 percent decrease. For the five overlapping years in the FY 2006-2011 (SYIP) and the FY 2007-2012 SYIP, Alexandria's total funding decreased by \$12.8 million from \$25.8 million to \$13.0 million, a 50 percent decrease.

Two Alexandria projects are significantly impacted by the funding reduction reflected in the draft SYIP. First, the City's previously programmed funding of \$5.1 million for the purchase of additional buses for the DASH transit system is totally eliminated in the draft SYIP. Second, our previously programmed funding of \$18.0 million (with a requested increase to \$23.4 million) for

widening Eisenhower Avenue between Holland Lane and Stovall Street was reduced to \$10.5 million and all funding allocated for this project in FY 2007 was eliminated in the draft SYIP. The elimination/deferral of funding for these projects will have a negative effect on the City, its residents and businesses.

In light of current State budget uncertainties, the impact of reduced funding levels, and the need to provide comments now to the State, staff recommends that the City request that the CTB reprogram \$2.8 million in prior year allocations for the Clermont Avenue project (Eisenhower-to-Duke connectivity) to fully meet the City's FY 2007 funding request for the purchase of additional DASH buses and the widening of Eisenhower Avenue. Such a reallocation will enable the design work for the Eisenhower widening to occur in FY 2007 as previously planned and will allow for the planned DASH bus purchases in FY 2007. At such time as a State budget is adopted and revised transportation revenue forecasts are available, funding shortfalls in the later years of the FY 2007-2012 SYIP can be more realistically addressed. Shifting FY 2007 monies out of the Clermont Avenue project (where the \$2.8 million would not be spent in FY 2007) to projects whose timing would entail FY 2007 spending is the simplest way to keep near term priority projects moving forward without prejudging future decisions concerning Eisenhower-Duke connectivity.

A summary of Alexandria's funding allocations in the FY 2006-2011 SYIP, our funding request for the FY 2007-2012 SYIP, the funding provided in the draft FY 2007-2012 SYIP, and staff-recommended revisions to the draft program are attached (Attachment 3).

FISCAL IMPACT: The potential loss of \$12.8 million is a significant negative impact to the City's plans to address its priority transportation needs. Absent additional State revenues for transportation, either the projects will not be built and that the congestion not addressed, or the burden of this State responsibility would be shifted to the City. Urban system transportation funding provided through the SYIP requires a two percent local match. The City will be required to provide the required matching funds for each individual project at the time an administrative agreement is entered into with the State. The City match is included in the approved City CIP.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1. Draft Letter Requesting Revisions to the Draft FY 2007-2012 SYIP
- Attachment 2. City of Alexandria FY 2007-2012 SYIP Request of November 2005
- Attachment 3. Summary of SYIP Funding

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Richard J. Baier, Director, T&ES
Tom Culpepper, Deputy Director, T&ES

May xx, 2006

The Honorable Pierce R. Homer
Secretary of Transportation and Chairman
of the Commonwealth Transportation Board
P. O. Box 1473
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Secretary Homer:

As the Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of City Council, I request that this letter, outlining the City's request for revisions in the Working Draft FY 2007-2012 Six-Year Improvement Program, be entered into the record of the public hearings held on May 3, 2006, in Fairfax, Virginia.

I would like to first express the City's appreciation for the support of the CTB in considering our program requests. The City understands the difficult circumstances under which the CTB was forced to develop the draft program for FY 2007-2012 and remains very supportive of the efforts of the Governor and the CTB to resolve the significantly reduced level of transportation funding reflected in this draft program.

The City asks that the CTB approve our request to reprogram approximately \$2.8 million in prior year allocations in order to fully fund our original request to maintain FY 2006-2011 allocations for two projects of significant importance to the City. Specifically, we ask that the CTB:

1. Reprogram \$859,000 from UPC 52175, Clermont Avenue, to UPC 57072, Purchase of DASH Buses, in FY 2007 in order to maintain funding for this project as projected in the FY 2006-2011 SYIP.
2. Reprogram \$1,925,000 from UPC 52175, Clermont Avenue, to UPC 77378, Eisenhower Avenue Widening, in FY 2007 in order to maintain funding for this project as projected in the FY 2006-2011 SYIP.

The above requests are shown on the enclosed table and discussed in more detail below.

Purchase of New DASH Buses: As gasoline prices continue to rise, increased reliance on and use of transit, particularly in the Northern Virginia region, is also readily evident. Without additional buses for Alexandria's DASH transit system, there is no way we can meet this rising

demand. Loss of funding for the purchase of additional buses will make it impossible for the City to maintain its bus fleet as needed to adequately serve current and projected demand.

Alexandria is currently in the process of designing and building a new bus maintenance facility for its DASH transit system (UPC 71853), scheduled to be advertised for design/build construction this fall. When this facility is completed in late 2008, DASH will have the space to accommodate a larger fleet.

The City of Alexandria requests reprogramming of \$859,000 previously allocated to UPC 52175, Clermont Avenue, to UPC 57072, Purchase of DASH Buses, in FY 2007 in order to maintain funding for this project as projected in the FY 2006-2011 SYIP.

Widen Eisenhower Avenue from Holland Lane to Stovall Street: This project is a critically needed improvement to accommodate vehicular, transit and pedestrian travel in the City's East Eisenhower area. Originally requested as a new project in FY 2005 and only partially funded for preliminary engineering in FY 2006, it has become increasingly critical that preliminary engineering activities proceed and that the project be constructed in a timely manner.

In addition to bringing gridlock to a rapidly growing section of the City, any additional delay in beginning the Eisenhower Avenue widening project may also delay opening of two I-95/495 ramp connections into the Eisenhower East area that are being constructed as part of the State's Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project. Eisenhower Avenue is the receiving arterial roadway for both of these ramps connections. The Mill Road ramps are scheduled to open in 2008, and the Telegraph Road ramp is expected to open in 2009. Without the planned widening of Eisenhower Avenue, the existing street system will not be able to adequately serve the projected traffic from these ramps.

The City of Alexandria requests reprogramming of \$1,925,000 from UPC 52175, Clermont Avenue, to UPC 77378, Eisenhower Avenue Widening, in FY 2007 in order to maintain funding for this project as projected in the FY 2006-2011 SYIP.

Clermont Avenue: Combined, these reprogramming requests reduce funding available for UPC 52175, Clermont Avenue, in prior year allocations by \$2,784,000. Inasmuch as the City has not yet concluded its consideration of alternatives for this project, and is unlikely to do so before undertaking and then completing an Eisenhower West Small Area Plan, we do not believe the requested reprogramming will in any way delay the implementation of the to be selected alternative.

The Honorable Pierce R. Homer
May xx, 2006
Page 3

Overall Funding: In closing, I would like to restate what is obvious to the City, VDOT, CTB, and to all who are knowledgeable on transportation needs across the State, that the available transportation funding is totally inadequate. We ask that the CTB and VDOT continue working with the Governor and General Assembly to identify sources of additional capital funding for transportation projects statewide, including those in the City and other jurisdictions of Northern Virginia, and offer our continuing support in this regard.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to submit this request, and respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and continuing support.

Sincerely,

William D. Euille. Mayor

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Members of City Council
James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

**FY 2007 - 2012 Six-Year Improvement Program
 Requested Changes in Working Draft
 City of Alexandria, Virginia**

Project			Allocations (thousands)								
UPC	Description		Prior Alloc	FY'07	FY'08	FY'09	FY'10	FY'11	FY'12	Total	
52175	Clermont Avenue - 4-lane	FY 06-11 SYIP Funding	16,146							16,146	
		Original City Request	16,146							16,146	
		Working Draft FY 07-12 SYIP	16,146							16,146	
		Requested Change	(2,784)								
		Revised FY 07-12 SYIP Funding	13,362								13,362
57072	Purchase of Buses (DASH)	FY 06-11 SYIP Funding	3,807	859		2,143		2,049		8,858	
		Original City Request	3,807	859		2,143		2,049		8,858	
		Working Draft FY 07-12 SYIP	3,731	0		0		0		3,731	
		Requested Change	859								
		Revised FY 07-12 SYIP Funding	4,590	0		0		0		4,590	
77378	Eisenhower Avenue Widening	FY 06-11 SYIP Funding	0	1,925	5,293	3,234	4,708	2,864		18,024	
		Original City Request	404	1,925	5,293	3,234	4,708	2,864	5,000	23,428	
		Working Draft FY 07-12 SYIP	404	0	1,491	2,744	1,880	2,186	1,774	10,479	
		Requested Change	1,925								
		Revised FY 07-12 SYIP Funding	2,329	0	1,491	2,744	1,880	2,186	1,774	12,404	
Total		FY 06-11 SYIP Funding	19,953	2,784	5,293	5,377	4,708	4,913	0	43,028	
		Original City Request	20,357	2,784	5,293	5,377	4,708	4,913	5,000	43,432	
		Working Draft FY 07-12 SYIP	20,281	0	1,491	2,744	1,880	2,186	1,774	28,582	
		Requested Change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
		Revised FY 07-12 SYIP Funding	20,281	0	1,491	2,744	1,880	2,186	1,774	28,582	



City of Alexandria, Virginia
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



William D. Euille
Mayor

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November 16, 2005

The Honorable Pierce R. Homer
Secretary of Transportation and Chairman
of the Commonwealth Transportation Board
P. O. Box 1473
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Secretary Homer:

As the Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, I request that this letter, outlining the City's transportation priorities, be entered into the record of the FY 2007 to FY 2012 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) Update Hearing of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) at the Northern Virginia meeting that was held on November 10, 2005.

I would like to express the City's appreciation for the support of the CTB in considering our past requests. The City is very supportive of the efforts of the Governor and the CTB to address the issue of congestion in Northern Virginia and for providing funding for improvements to the Urban street system, and public transportation projects and facilities.

The following transportation projects should receive the funding identified in the FY 2006 to FY 2011 Six-Year Improvement Program as available to the City. It is noted that these projects received the unanimous support and approval of the Alexandria City Council at its meeting of October 19, 2005. These projects continue the funding allocations in the FY 2006 to FY 2011 Six Year Improvement Program.

1. Continue to provide funding to widen Eisenhower Avenue from Holland Lane to Mill Road (UPC 77378);
2. Continue to provide funding to build a new DASH facility (UPC 71853); and
3. Purchase new DASH buses (UPC 57072).

The above recommendations are described below in detail. The enclosed table indicates the City's request for FY 2007 to FY 2012.

"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"

1. **Widen Eisenhower Avenue from Holland to Mill Road** - This project is a necessary improvement to provide needed vehicular and transit access to the East Eisenhower development in which the U.S. Patent and Trade Office began its relocation in December 2003. This relocation completed in FY 2005. The City's current plans are to design the Eisenhower facility in 2006. The facility will be built when funds become available after the design is completed. The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$23.4 million. City funds are funding the road's design. Alexandria requests that \$1.925 million of Urban funds be earmarked for this project in FY 2007, and that \$5.0 million be earmarked for this project in FY 2012.
2. **DASH Bus Maintenance Facility** – Alexandria has been in the process of planning for a new bus maintenance facility, which will be located next to the current facility which is needed to accommodate the number of buses which DASH currently operates and plans to operate in the immediate future. Previous Annual plans from FY 2006 and prior years allocated \$32.3 million to the construction of a new DASH bus facility. We request that the CTB maintain the funding stream it indicated in the FY 2006 Six Year Plan by providing \$2.680 million to this project in FY 2007.
3. **Purchase of New DASH Buses** - Alexandria is in the process of designing and building a new bus maintenance facility. As this facility becomes available, DASH will have the space to accommodate a larger fleet. Alexandria is requesting that the \$859,000 allocated to acquire DASH buses in the FY 2006 to FY 2011 Six-Year Plan be identified to acquire buses which will be needed to address serious passenger demand caused overcrowding or to start a new bus route.

The City is also submitting a grant request to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for Department funding assistance to continue the City's Alexandria Rideshare program. For FY 2006, the City is requesting \$140,335 in State funds. Local funds will be requested in the City's FY 2007 budget. The City has received annual funding for this program from the State since 1991.

The City also endorses the state and federal grants submitted by NVTC (as shown below) to help defray NVTC, WMATA, local bus systems, and the Virginia Railway Express operating and capital costs.

FY 2007 grant request to VDRPT to defray the public transportation costs to NVTC and its members for administration, fuels, tires, lubricants, and maintenance parts.

The Honorable Pierce R. Homer

November 16, 2005

Page 3

1. **FY 2007 grant request to VDRPT** to defray of the cost borne by NVTC and its members for equipment, facilities and the associated expenses for any approved capital grant.
2. **FY 2007 grant request to VDRPT** to defray the fuel, tire, and maintenance costs capital costs of VRE.

In closing, I would like to restate what is obvious to the City, VDOT, and to all who are knowledgeable on transportation needs across the State, that the available transportation funding is totally inadequate. We ask that the CTB and VDOT continue working with the Governor and General Assembly to identify sources of additional capital funding for transportation projects state-wide, including those in the City and other jurisdictions of Northern Virginia. Projects for which adequate funding is currently not available for the City of Alexandria include:

- ◆ Metrobus and Metrorail capital (IRP and SAP program, especially the Metro Matters program and the replacement of the WMATA Royal Street bus garage).
- ◆ Addition of a second entrance to the Eisenhower Metrorail station.
- ◆ Funding of the DASH facility sufficient to include all desired facility elements.
- ◆ Potomac Yard/Route 1 transportation corridor transit improvements such as the bus rapid transit (BRT) service we and Arlington are contemplating.
- ◆ Expansion of DASH bus fleet.
- ◆ Other future transit and road capital needs which will be identified in either current studies or future studies.

Again, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to submit this list of transportation priorities for the City of Alexandria into the record of the CTB FY 2007 to FY 2012 Six-Year Improvement Program hearing and request your continuing support.

Sincerely,


William D. Euille
Mayor

Enclosure

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA FY '07-'12 SIX YEAR PLAN - (Numbers are in Thousands)

UPC NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Estimated									Total	Not Funded
		Cost	Thru FY'05	FY'07	FY'08	FY'09	FY'10	FY'11	FY'12			
	28157 City Share of WMATA Capital Program	3,802	3,802	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,802	0
	63362 Old Town Congestion Relief Study	160	160	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	
	63362 Duke Street Pedestrian Bridge	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	
	57067 Monroe Avenue Bridge	17,000	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	0
	8645 King- Beauregard Improvements	6,381	6,381	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,381	
	17685 King- Quaker Improvements	661	661	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	661	
	81 Clermont E-D	204	204	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	204	
	13464 Highway Signalization	3,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	
	70580 Highway Video Monitoring	1,220	1,220	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,220	
	70586 Traffic Signal Synchronization	193	193	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	193	
	71769 ITS-King/Braddock/Quaker	925	924	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	924	
	16099 HOV Access Ramp	150	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	
	16631 King Street Metro Pedestrian Improvements	60	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	
	17678 Mill Road Extension	2,975	1,370	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,370	1,605
	52175 Clermont E-D	16,146	16,146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16,146	
	57071 King Street Metro Platform Extension	3,061	3,061	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,061	
	57072 Purchase of New DASH Buses	3,807	3,807	859	0	2,143	0	2,049	0	0	8,858	
	71853 New DASH Maintenance Facility	22,823	32,332	2,680	0	0	0	0	0	0	35,012	
	77378 Eisenhower Widening	23,428	404	1,925	5,293	3,234	4,708	2,864	5,000	23,428		
	TOTALS		74,477	5,464	5,293	5,377	4,708	4,913	5,000	105,232		

10

NOTES:

1.) Monroe Street Bridge is being funded completely with private funds

**FY 2007 - 2012 Six-Year Improvement Program
 Summary of Funding and Recommended Changes in Working Draft
 City of Alexandria**

Project			Allocations (thousands)							
UPC	Description		Prior Alloc	FY'07	FY'08	FY'09	FY'10	FY'11	FY'12	Total
17678	Mill Road Extension	FY 06-11 SYIP Funding	1,370							1,370
		Original City Request	1,370							1,370
		Working Draft FY 07-12 SYIP	1,370	265	738	387	25			2,785
		Recommended Change	0							
		Revised SYIP if Approved	1,370	265	738	387	25			2,785
52175	Clermont Avenue - 4-lane	FY 06-11 SYIP Funding	16,146							16,146
		Original City Request	16,146							16,146
		Working Draft FY 07-12 SYIP	16,146							16,146
		Recommended Change	-2,784							
		Revised SYIP if Approved	13,362							13,362
57072	Purchase of Buses (DASH)	FY 06-11 SYIP Funding	3,807	859		2,143		2,049		8,858
		Original City Request	3,807	859		2,143		2,049		8,858
		Working Draft FY 07-12 SYIP	3,731	0		0		0		3,731
		Recommended Change	859							
		Revised SYIP if Approved	4,590	0		0		0		4,590
71853	DASH Bus Maintenance Facility	FY 06-11 SYIP Funding	27,206	2,680						29,886
		Original City Request	32,322	2,680						35,002
		Working Draft FY 07-12 SYIP	32,410	2,483	108					35,001
		Recommended Change	0	0	0					
		Revised SYIP if Approved	32,410	2,483	108					35,001
77378	Eisenhower Avenue Widening	FY 06-11 SYIP Funding	0	1,925	5,293	3,234	4,708	2,864		18,024
		Original City Request	404	1,925	5,293	3,234	4,708	2,864	5,000	23,428
		Working Draft FY 07-12 SYIP	404	0	1,491	2,744	1,880	2,186	1,774	10,479
		Recommended Change	1,925							
		Revised SYIP if Approved	2,329	0	1,491	2,744	1,880	2,186	1,774	12,404
Total		FY 06-11 SYIP Funding	48,529	5,464	5,293	5,377	4,708	4,913	0	74,284
		Original City Request	54,049	5,464	5,293	5,377	4,708	4,913	5,000	79,804
		Working Draft FY 07-12 SYIP	54,061	2,748	2,337	3,131	1,905	2,186	1,774	66,368
		Recommended Change	0							
		Revised SYIP if Approved	54,061	2,748	2,337	3,131	1,905	2,186	1,774	66,368



WEST END BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

30
5-9-06

May 8, 2006

RE: DOCKET ITEM 30 – Proposal to reprogram dedicated transportation funds for Eisenhower Avenue widening & DASH buses purchase

The Honorable William D. Euille, Mayor and
Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

We are writing on behalf of the West End Business Association in regards to Docket Item 30 for the May 9th City Council meeting. The staff report suggests reprogramming Clermont Avenue funds contained in the revisions to the "Working Draft of Commonwealth of Virginia FY 2007-2012 six-year Improvement Program for Highways, Rail and Public Transportation" to other transportation projects.

Our Concerns

Due to the projected cuts in State transportation funding for Alexandria, the City Manager is seeking your approval to request reprogramming of \$2.8 million in prior year allocations dedicated to the Clermont Avenue project (item UPC 52175 to improve north/south access from Eisenhower Avenue) to pay for the costs of widening Eisenhower Avenue and to purchase new DASH buses. The request is for \$1.925 million to be allocated to the Eisenhower Avenue widening project to and \$859,000 to DASH for new buses.

Both are worthwhile transportation projects for the City, and in particular, West Alexandria greatly needs improved DASH service for adequate economic growth and development. But, these dedicated State Transportation funds were originally earmarked to improve access to Eisenhower Avenue from Duke Street as part of the State funding for construction of the Eisenhower/Clermont interchange. We consider connecting the West End and the Eisenhower Avenue corridor a top priority. Having direct connections between Duke Street and Eisenhower Avenue is a critical component in the development and economic growth of West Alexandria.

Borrowing Versus Reprogramming

If any of these funds are even temporarily "borrowed" from the Clermont Avenue dedicated fund, we request that they be quickly be restored in full. We also request that there not be other discretionary requests that can further erode this dedicated fund from the intended purpose. The West End Business Association can support a temporary "borrowing" from the Clermont project fund, but not a permanent reprogramming.

Independent Traffic and Transportation Study Request

We request that a portion be allocated now for a use directly related to the purpose of the Clermont Avenue fund. We request an independent traffic and transportation study to determine the need, possible locations, and potential negative and positive effects of multiple access points from Duke Street to Eisenhower Avenue. We recognize that access to Eisenhower Avenue has an emotional impact on some Alexandria residents. We also believe that it is unlikely that any City-based task force can resolve these questions and therefore request an independent, third-party analysis be done in order to objectively assess the need and impact solely from a professional transportation engineering standpoint.

Critical Economic and Redevelopment Juncture

West Alexandria is the City's untapped economic development engine and is at a critical juncture. With the advent of the massive development / redevelopment efforts in the Landmark Mall, Van Dorn Avenue, plus the residential construction projects and commercial buildings planned on Eisenhower Avenue, connecting Duke Street to Eisenhower Avenue becomes a critical component. In order for these projects to be totally successful and to flourish, the City needs to integrate the Eisenhower corridor and the West End.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact any West End Business Association Board member. Your favorable consideration on this critical issue would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


Wendy Albert,
President
and
The Board of Directors
West Business Association

cc: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager

Richard J. Baier, P.E. Director, T&ES
Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management & Budget



EISENHOWER PARTNERSHIP

FAX COVER SHEET

To: City Clerk

Fax Number: 7/838 6433

Company: City of Alexandria

From: Wendy Reed

Date: May 9, 2006

NO. OF PAGES: 2

Re: Letter to Mayor & CC Members regarding proposed reprogramming of transportation funds

Message:

Please can you forward a copy of this letter to the Mayor and City Council Members for consideration at this evening's City Council meeting.

**Thank you,
Wendy Reed**

2121 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone: 703-684-5124 Fax: 703-684-7887
www.eisenhowerpartnership.org
info@eisenhowerpartnership.org



30

5-9-06

May 8, 2006

The Honorable William D. Euille, Mayor and
Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Eisenhower Avenue Public/Private Partnership in regards to docket item 30 for the May 9th City Council meeting. The staff report suggests reprogramming Clermont Avenue funds contained in the revisions to the "Working Draft of Commonwealth of Virginia FY 2007-2012 6-year Improvement Program for Highways, Rail and Public Transportation" to other transportation projects.

Because of projected cuts in State transportation funding for Alexandria, the City Manager is seeking your approval to request reprogramming of \$2.8 million in prior year allocations dedicated to the Clermont Avenue project (item UPC 52175 to improve north/south access from Eisenhower Avenue) to pay for the costs of widening Eisenhower Avenue and to purchase new DASH buses. The request is for the Eisenhower Avenue widening project to receive \$1.925 million and DASH would receive \$859,000 for new buses.

These are both worthwhile transportation projects for the city. That said, the original purpose of these dedicated State Transportation funds was to improve access to Duke Street from Eisenhower Avenue as part of the State funding for construction of the Eisenhower/Clermont interchange. For the Partnership, integrating Eisenhower Valley into the City by improving north/south access has long been a top priority. We believe that if any funds are temporarily diverted from the Clermont Avenue dedicated fund, that they should later be fully restored. In addition, we hope this request does not open the door to other discretionary requests that could further erode the availability of this dedicated fund from its intended purpose.

The Eisenhower Partnership can support a temporary "borrowing" from the Clermont project fund, but not a permanent reprogramming. However, if those funds are to be reprogrammed, we would recommend a portion be allocated for a purpose directly related to the Clermont Avenue fund. We request an independent traffic and transportation study to determine the need for, possible locations, and potential negative and positive effects of multiple access points to Eisenhower Avenue from the north. Recognizing that the question of access to Eisenhower Avenue has an emotional impact on some Alexandria residents, and that a City-based task force is unlikely to resolve these questions, an

independent third-party analysis would be able to assess the need and impact solely from a professional transportation engineering standpoint.

The Eisenhower Valley is at a critical juncture. The corridor now has more than 5,000 residents, and residential projects are under construction that will accommodate another 4,000 residents. A number of new commercial buildings are planned east of Cameron Run Regional Park, and the entire area west of the park continues to be Alexandria's untapped economic development engine. In order to accommodate the growth that is already occurring, and the desired future growth along the corridor, it is essential that access to Eisenhower Avenue from the rest of Alexandria be improved.

Your favorable consideration would be deeply appreciated. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Janet R. Gregor
Executive Director

Cc: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Richard J. Baier, P.E. Director, T&ES
Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget