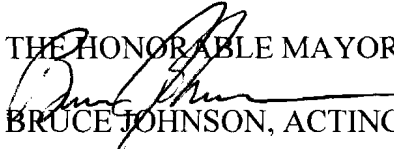


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 20, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP

ISSUE: The establishment of a work group to study and provide guidance on technical and policy issues related to a potential new Metrorail station in Potomac Yard.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the resolution (Attachment 1) establishing the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Implementation Work Group as discussed below.

DISCUSSION: Following the completion of the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Concept Development Study in February 2010, and the adoption of the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan in June 2010, City staff began the implementation phase of the proposed Metrorail station and commenced, with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) staff as the lead staff, the required environmental planning process for the proposed station.

A Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Feasibility Work Group was established by Council in the October of 2008 and met over the course of a year and a half through February of 2010. In order to ensure there is continuity between the previous planning initiatives and the implementation of the proposed Metrorail station, it is recommended that a work group similar to the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Feasibility Work Group be constituted as an implementation work group to assist in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, and provide input to City staff, WMATA staff, the Transportation Commission and Council.

As part of the EIS for the proposed Metrorail station in Potomac Yard, substantial technical, financial and environmental analyses will be undertaken to study station locations and potential environmental impacts of each site. The proposed Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Implementation Work Group will analyze the natural, cultural, fiscal and socio-economic impacts of a Metrorail station and the technical, design and construction issues associated with the construction of a Metrorail station.

The mission of the Metrorail Station Implementation Work Group would be to review preliminary documents for the EIS, station concepts and funding. The Work Group would receive staff and consultant briefings on the EIS and subsequent studies associated with the design and construction of the station. It also would serve as a focal point for the community participation elements of the EIS process.

This Work Group is proposed to include the following representatives: two members of Council, one representative from the Planning Commission, one representative from the Transportation Commission, one representative from the Environmental Policy Commission and one resident who served on the former Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group. With the exception of the addition of the Environmental Policy Commission (which is recommended due to the environmental elements of the EIS), this Work Group is proposed to be structured the same as the former Metrorail Station Implementation Group.

The Council and the Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group (which is no longer active) Work Group members are proposed to be appointed by the Mayor, and the other representatives are proposed to be appointed by the chairs of the respective groups listed above.

Transportation and Environmental Services staff will provide coordinating support to the Work Group and will be supplemented by a consultant team and staff from other departments. Staff support will be provided by the City Manager's Office, the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, and the Department of Planning and Zoning. The staff of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will also assist. The Work Group is anticipated to meet during the next phases of the project implementation through at least the beginning of construction of the station.

FISCAL IMPACT: The coordinating support by will be conducted with the allocated operational budgets for each of these departments. No additional funding will be needed to help coordinate the Work Group tasks.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 1: Resolution to establish the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Implementation Work Group

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Richard J. Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, T&ES
Faroll Hamer, Director, Planning and Zoning
Abi Lerner, P.E., Deputy Director, T&ES
Jeff Farner, Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning
Sandra Marks, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, T&ES

RESOLUTION NO. 2462

WHEREAS, the implementation of a potential new Metrorail Station in Potomac Yard is important to the economic and social health of Alexandria as a whole and to the immediately surrounding area in particular; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to ensure a thorough technical analysis of a potential new Metrorail station, with full coordination with other City efforts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA THAT:**

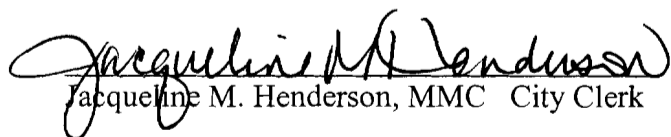
1. There is hereby established a Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Implementation Work Group; and
2. The Metrorail Station Implementation Work Group will include the following representatives: two members of Council, one representative from the Planning Commission, one representative from the Transportation Commission, one representative from the Environmental Policy Commission and one at-large member.
3. The functions of the Metrorail Station Implementation Work Group shall be to:
 - a. Review Environmental Impact Statement documentation;
 - b. Provide policy guidance to City and WMATA staff;
 - c. Analyze station concept refinement; and
 - d. Consider funding issues related to the new Metrorail Station; and
4. Staff technical support will be provided by the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services and the Department of Planning and Zoning with support from the City Manager's Office; and
5. The Council and the at-large member representative of the Metrorail Station Work Group shall be appointed by the Mayor, and the other Work Group representatives shall be appointed by the chairs of those groups to be represented.

Adopted: June 28, 2011



WILLIAM D. EULLE MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk