

NB#3
2-12-02

EXHIBIT NO. 1



*Sent to
CC - 2/14/02
oral - 2/12/02*

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
301 King Street, Suite 3500
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3211

Philip Sunderland
City Manager

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February 12, 2002

Mr. Reginald H. Beasley, Jr.
Urban Programs Engineer
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2000

Dear Mr. Beasley:

City of Alexandria staff attended the Transportation Coordinating Council of Northern Virginia on Friday, February 8, 2002, to hear presentations by Tom Boyd and Bob Cassada concerning VDOT funding constraints and the effort to achieve a more realistic six-year plan.

It is our understanding that construction projects that have been advertised for bids, have proceeded to the point of acquisition of right-of-way, if necessary, or have completed design engineering will continue to be funded for construction, and that other construction projects are likely to be deferred. It is also our understanding that the full funding for highway maintenance will continue and that transit subsidies will be fully funded.

The City is extremely concerned that critical construction in the City may get deferred. We ask that, as VDOT revises the six-year plan, the following priority be accorded to Alexandria projects listed in the current plan:

1. Monroe Avenue Bridge - The present bridge crosses the Metro and CSX railroads perpendicular to the railroad tracks, which causes right-angle turns for highway traffic at each end of the bridge. Because of the sharp curves at each end, high frequency accidents occurs. A new bridge is needed to reduce the accident rate, improve the alignment of the Route 1 Corridor, increase capacity on the Route 1 Corridor, and create better highway geometrics for development in the Potomac Yard area.
2. Van Dorn Street Highway Construction - The project is scheduled for advertisement this spring, and most of the right-of-way has been purchased. An increase in the capacity of this corridor is needed.

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3. Purchase of Property for the Dash Transit Facility - The City Council has authorized staff to finalize our negotiations for the purchase of land for a new facility for our DASH bus fleet. To reduce congestion on our streets, additional bus service, and consequently more buses, are needed. This new facility will provide the space to store and maintain additional buses.
4. Mill Road Realignment - This project is being undertaken to remove hazardous curves from a portion of this roadway and to extend it to Eisenhower Avenue. Project design and the purchase of highway right-of-way have been completed.
5. DASH Bus Purchase - To improve the quality of local bus service for our citizens and to plan for future demand, the City must purchase additional buses.
6. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Capital Improvement Projects - These transit capital projects are designed to improve pedestrian access to our Metro stations, to improve bus connections at the stations and to increase pedestrian safety. Increased ridership requires the funding of these capital projects.
7. Intersection of King Street and Beauregard Street - Due to highway capacity restrictions along the King Street Corridor in the area of this intersection and the unacceptable level of service, this intersection requires substantial reconstruction. The King Street corridor is an important connection to Interstate 395.

The City of Alexandria believes these projects to be critical, and we request your consideration of them in the listed order. I appreciate very much your assistance.

Sincerely,



Philip Sunderland
City Manager

cc: Mark Jinks, Assistant City Manager
Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES
Douglas McCobb, Deputy Director, Transportation/Transit Services, T&ES