

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 23, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER <sup>S</sup>

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 35 : PLANNING COMMISSION FINDINGS ON  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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At its meeting of April 2, 2002, the Planning Commission considered the proposed FY2003-2008 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Commission voted unanimously to advise you that it finds the proposed CIP to be generally consistent with the City's master plan, but recommends that the open space capital project classification be changed from "very desirable" to "essential."

Members of the Commission discussed open space as one of the City's most urgent needs and expressed concern that the level of money being put aside each year would not accumulate sufficient funds in time to purchase important sites while they are still available. There was the specific suggestion that the amount of money earmarked for acquisition of land for open space purposes be raised from \$1,200,000 to \$5,000,000, with the difference being aggressively pursued in the form of state or federal grants, recordation taxes or private monies.

In addition to open space, members discussed the importance of enhancing mass transit and increasing the amount of bike trails. Finally, members expressed support for the City's budgeting money to assist the redevelopment of the Upper Potomac West area, including the possible acquisition of the Datatel building.

cc: Eileen Fogarty, Director, Planning & Zoning