

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE FUNDS FOR AN EMPLOYER MATCH INCENTIVE TO PROMOTE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION MODES AND AUTHORIZING CITY MATCHING FUNDS

**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of a resolution requesting Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) funds for federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) project #47002-05 for an employer match incentive to promote alternative transportation modes and authorizing City matching funds.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that City Council adopt the attached resolution (Attachment 1) and authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit an agreement and matching funds to VDRPT for federal CMAQ funding in the amount of \$80,000 for the Alternative Transportation Program Transit Match Employer incentive; the agreement is contingent upon the matching funds in the amount of \$20,000 from City sources, and
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required under this program.

**DISCUSSION:** VDRPT has requested that matching funds be submitted for a transportation demand management project designed to decrease traffic congestion and improve air quality. This project expires in September 2004 and is part of the FY 2002 CMAQ program. If approved, federal funds would provide 80 percent of incentive costs associated with the continuation of the City's approved Alternative Transportation Program Transit Match employer incentive. The City would provide the remaining 20 percent.

The City has operated the Alternative Transportation Transit Match employer incentive program as a part of the comprehensive transit and commuter services program administered and coordinated by the City's Office of Transit Services and Programs in the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. The primary goals of the Alternative Transportation Program are to mitigate congestion by 1) decreasing the number of single occupant vehicles

(S.O.V.s) operating within the City during peak commuting hours; 2) improving air quality and mobility; 3) promoting the efficient use of existing transit; and 4) decreasing the demand for parking.

To accomplish these goals, the Alternative Transportation Program Transit Match employer incentive is used to help employers start transit benefit programs that encourage their employees to use alternative modes of commuting including carpools, vanpools, transit, teleworking, and bicycles. Employers receive up to six months of matching funds per benefit-receiving employee during the first six months of their transit benefit program. Twenty-seven employers have participated in the Alternative Transportation Program Transit Match employer incentive.

Other Alternative Transportation Program activities include:

- Outreach meetings to assist employers with developing a transit benefit
- Promoting the use of all alternative modes of transit, high-occupancy-vehicle lanes, park-and-ride facilities, teleworking, and bicycling through development of and participation in employer and property development transit fairs

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The total Alternative Transportation Program budget under this grant is \$100,000. Eligibility for the grant requires that the City contributes a 20 percent match in the amount of \$20,000 to match the federal funds. The local match will be provided from transportation studies funding in the T&ES FY 2004 operating budget. The FY 2004 approved budget for transportation studies is \$177,900. It should be noted that there are no monies available in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended.

The project agreement may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal office hours.

**ATTACHMENT:** Resolution

**STAFF:**

Richard Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

Thomas H. Culpepper, P.E., Deputy Director/Transportation and Transit, T&ES

James Maslanka, Division Chief/Transit Services, T&ES

Morgan Routt, Budget Analyst, OMB

Shauna Brown, Rideshare Coordinator, T&ES

**ATTACHMENT**

**RESOLUTION NO.**

WHEREAS, in accordance with Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by City Council resolution be made in order that the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation fund a congestion mitigation air quality program in the City of Alexandria;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the City Manager is authorized, for and on behalf of the City of Alexandria, hereafter referred to as the PUBLIC BODY, to execute and file an agreement with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia, hereafter referred to as the DEPARTMENT, for a grant of financial assistance in the amount of \$80,000.00 to defray the costs borne by the PUBLIC BODY for the continuation of the Alternative Transportation Program Transit Match employer incentive and to accept from the DEPARTMENT grants in such amounts as may be awarded, and to authorize the City Manager to furnish to the DEPARTMENT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the agreement request. The City Council certifies that the funds shall be used in accordance with the requirements of Section 58.1-638.A.4 of the Code of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the PUBLIC BODY will provide funds in the amount of \$20,000.00, which will be used as a 20 percent match to the federal funds in the ratio as required in such Act, that the records of receipts of expenditures of funds granted the PUBLIC BODY may be subject to audit by the DEPARTMENT and by the State Auditor of Public Accounts, and that funds granted to the PUBLIC BODY for defraying the expenses of the PUBLIC BODY shall be used only for such purposes as authorized in the Code of Virginia. The undersigned duly qualified and acting as City Clerk of the PUBLIC BODY certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the City Council held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 2003.

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM D. EUILLE                      MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JACQUELINE M. HENDERSON, CMC                      CITY CLERK

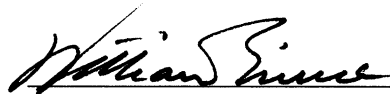
**RESOLUTION NO. 2079**

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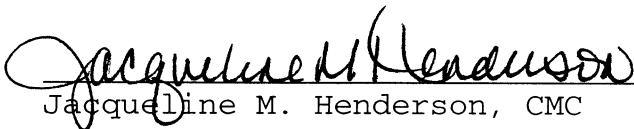
ADOPTED: September 9, 2003



WILLIAM D. EUILLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC

City Clerk