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2-23-08

# **City of Alexandria Transportation Master Plan**

***Master Plan Amendment 2008-0001***

City Council  
Public Hearing  
February 23, 2008

# Transportation Master Plan

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## Plan Overview

- Update to Current Transportation Plan (As Amended 2000)
- Concept Oriented Master Plan
- New Template for Transportation Decision Making
- First Step of Process (Design Guidelines, Projects, etc.)

## Implementation Process

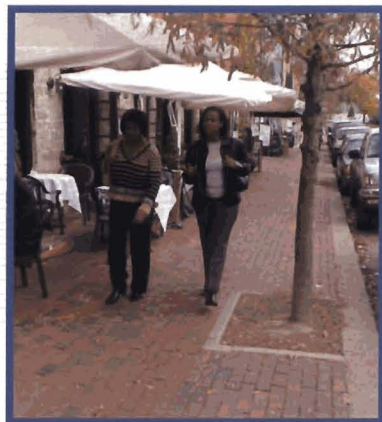
- Long-Range Improvement Needs
- Transportation Improvements Work Plan

# Overview

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THERE IS AN INTEGRATED,  
MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION  
SYSTEM THAT EFFICIENTLY AND  
EFFECTIVELY GETS PEOPLE FROM  
POINT "A" TO POINT "B".

*-City Strategic Plan 2004-2015.*



# Overview

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## **Why?**

- Demand for mobility will increase, locally and regionally
- Opportunities for (and interest in) additional street capacity limited
- Automobile congestion cannot be eliminated!
- Alexandria needs a new mobility strategy

## **How?**

- Encourage a paradigm shift in the way Alexandrians think and act when it comes to traveling.
- Provide connectivity and accessibility to all of Alexandria's recreational, cultural and economic assets through a comprehensive, multimodal approach.

# Guiding Principles

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- 1. Alexandria will develop innovative local and regional transit options.*
- 2. Alexandria will provide quality pedestrian and bicycle accommodations.*
- 3. Alexandria will provide its citizens with accessibility and mobility.*
- 4. Alexandria will increase the use of communications technology in transportation systems.*
- 5. Alexandria will further transportation policies that support livable, urban land use and encourage neighborhood preservation.*
- 6. Alexandria will promote environmentally friendly transportation policies.*
- 7. Alexandria will ensure accessible, reliable and safe transportation for older and disabled citizens*

# Plan Elements

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**Section One:**  
*Transit*



**Section Four:**  
*Streets*



**Section Two:**  
*Pedestrian*



**Section Five:**  
*Parking*



**Section Three:**  
*Bicycle*

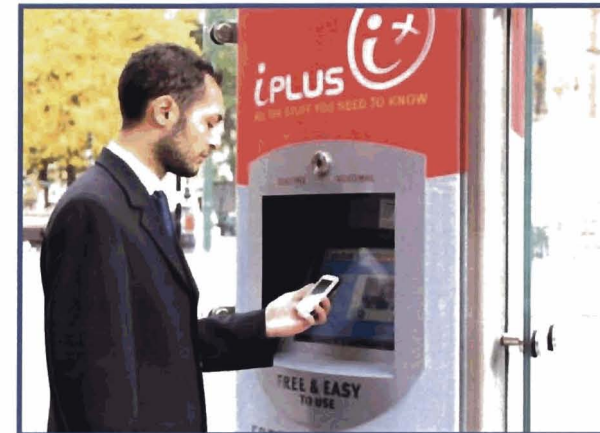


**Section Six:**  
*Funding &  
Implementation*

# Transit

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The City will expand local and regional transportation options to reduce traffic congestion and decrease public dependence on the automobile



# Transit

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**Goal:** Ensure that people can travel into, within and out of the City of Alexandria by providing a mass transit system that combines different modes of travel into a seamless, comprehensive and coordinated effort.

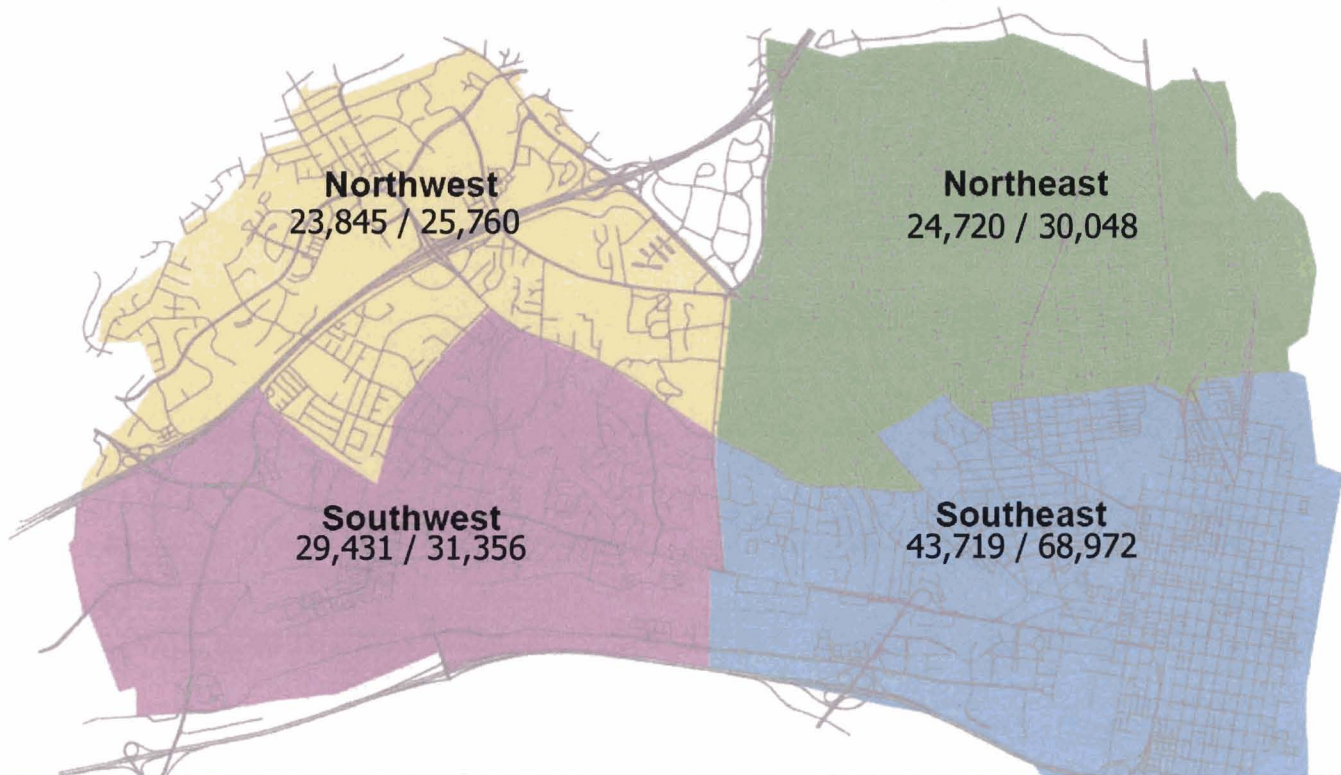
**Objective:** A reliable and convenient mass transit system integrated with surrounding land uses and existing transportation connections offering travel time savings and an enjoyable transit experience for its riders, featuring advanced technology and passenger amenities.





# Transit

## City of Alexandria: Transportation Quadrants



		Destination				
		NW	NE	SW	SE	Total
Origin	2000					
	NW	23845	3265	6470	6482	40062
	NE	3518	24270	2640	9017	39445
	SW	5602	2722	29431	8686	46441
	SE	4798	6735	6464	43719	61716
Total	37763	36992	45005	67904	187664	

		Destination				
		NW	NE	SW	SE	Total
Origin	2030					
	NW	25760	3372	6612	7662	43406
	NE	3654	30048	2828	14963	51493
	SW	6254	3224	31356	11863	52697
	SE	5647	11329	7802	68972	93750
Total	41315	47973	48598	103460	241346	

# Transit Strategy

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## ***Why is this Different?***

- Focus on securing dedicated, congestion-free, transit right-of-way
- Use of state-of-the-art clean, environmentally friendly, comfortable, accessible vehicles (Light Rail, Street Car, Bus Rapid Transit) that provide amenities to make the daily commute an enjoyable experience
- Use of smart technology to provide transit users and riders with up to the minute information
- Shorter headways, making it easier to catch a ride when and where people need to
- Focus on enhanced connectivity between various modes of transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities

# Transit Corridors

## What Do Alexandrians Say? Desired Public Transit Improvements

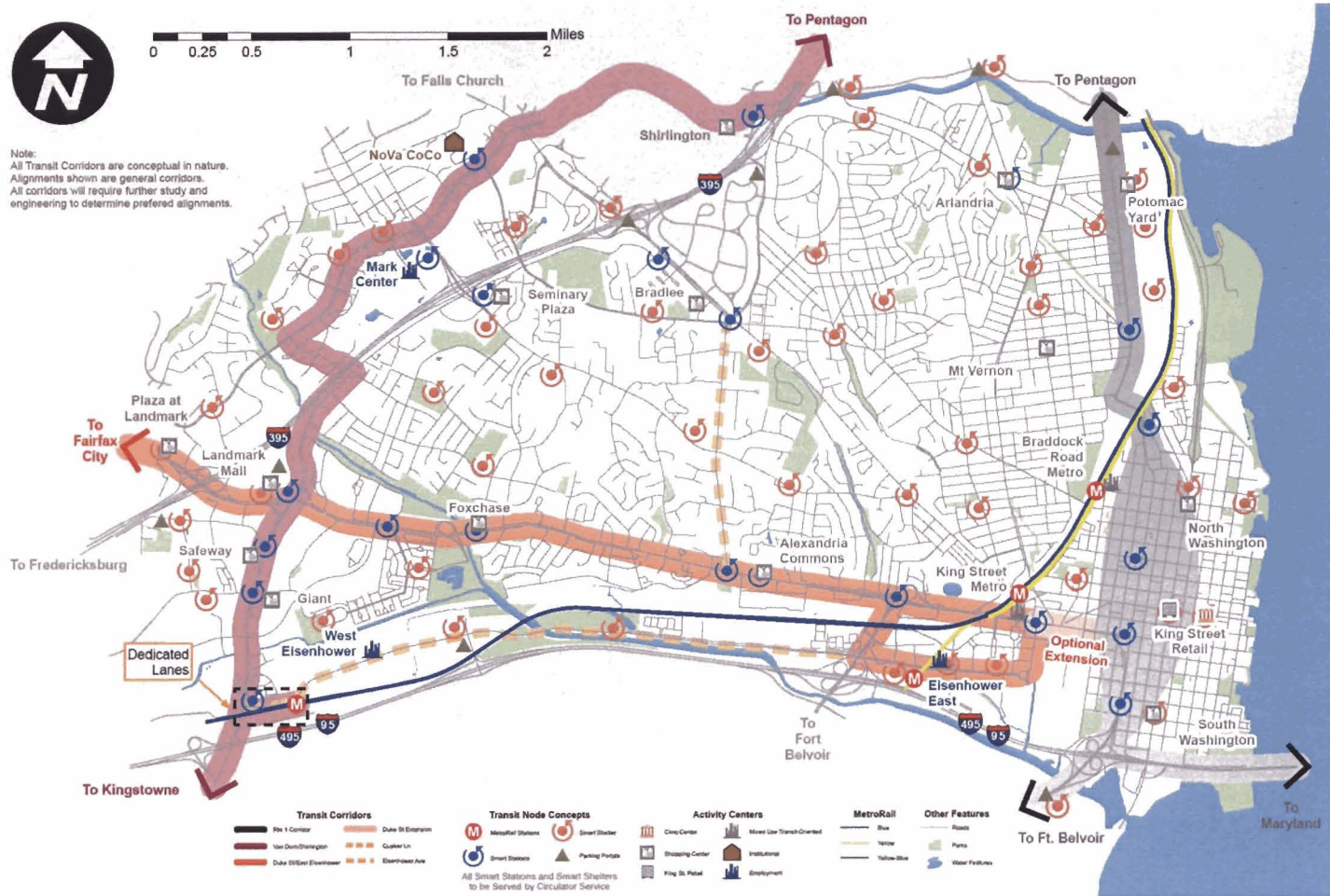
- ◆ More peak hour buses and bus-only lanes
- ◆ Smaller buses
- ◆ Increase shelter lighting and safety
- ◆ Improve pedestrian walkways and access to public facilities
- ◆ Provide automated schedule
- ◆ Better maintenance, recognizable, visible transit signage
- ◆ More and clearer bus schedules
- ◆ Integrate transit with city planning/development



Community Meeting—July 9 & 10, 2003



Note:  
All Transit Corridors are conceptual in nature.  
Alignments shown are general corridors.  
All corridors will require further study and engineering to determine preferred alignments.



City of Alexandria Transit Concept

Transit Corridors	Transit Node Concepts	Activity Centers	MetroRail	Other Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue Line</li> <li>Orange Line</li> <li>Yellow Line</li> <li>Green Line</li> <li>Red Line</li> <li>Black Line</li> <li>Grey Line</li> <li>Light Blue Line</li> <li>Light Green Line</li> <li>Light Orange Line</li> <li>Light Yellow Line</li> <li>Light Purple Line</li> <li>Light Blue-Black Line</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metro Station</li> <li>Smart Station</li> <li>Smart Shelter</li> <li>Parking Podium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Center</li> <li>Shopping Center</li> <li>Play &amp; Retail</li> <li>Employment</li> <li>Medium-Density Residential</li> <li>High-Density Residential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue</li> <li>Orange</li> <li>Yellow</li> <li>Green</li> <li>Black</li> <li>Light Blue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roads</li> <li>Parks</li> <li>Water Features</li> </ul>

All Smart Stations and Smart Shelters to be Served by Circulator Service

# Actions & Strategies

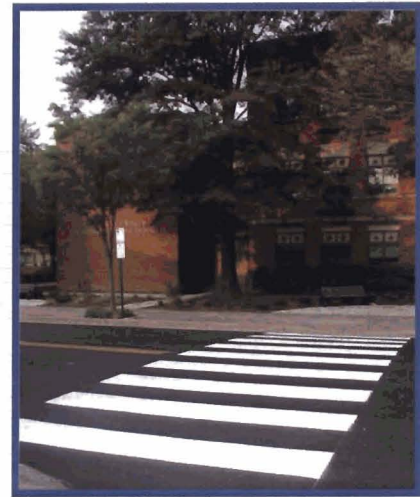
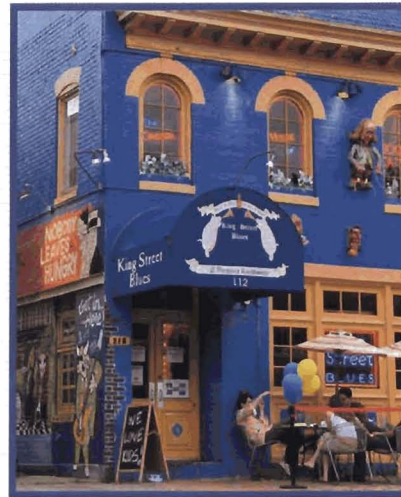
1. Engage the community in developing and implementing the proposed transit concept
2. Coordinate with surrounding jurisdictions to enhance regional mobility
3. Prioritize transit corridors for investment
4. Develop corridor-specific plans for dedicated transit travel ways within the proposed general corridors
5. Identify strategic locations for smart stations serving new and existing transit services
6. *The City will ensure that development and redevelopment does not preclude efforts to expand public transportation infrastructure.*
7. Further identify specific transit modes, technologies and techniques best suited for Alexandria
8. Coordinate existing DASH service with new transit services
9. Incorporate street operations improvements that serve all transit services
10. Create TMPs, overlay zoning, parking management, etc. to support transit service delivery and use
11. Seek new and innovative funding options
12. Utilize public outreach and marketing to promote expanded services
13. Coordinate efforts to ensure that the special transportation needs of all citizens are considered

# Pedestrian

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“Pedestrians are the lost measure of a community; they set the scale for both center and edge of our neighborhoods”

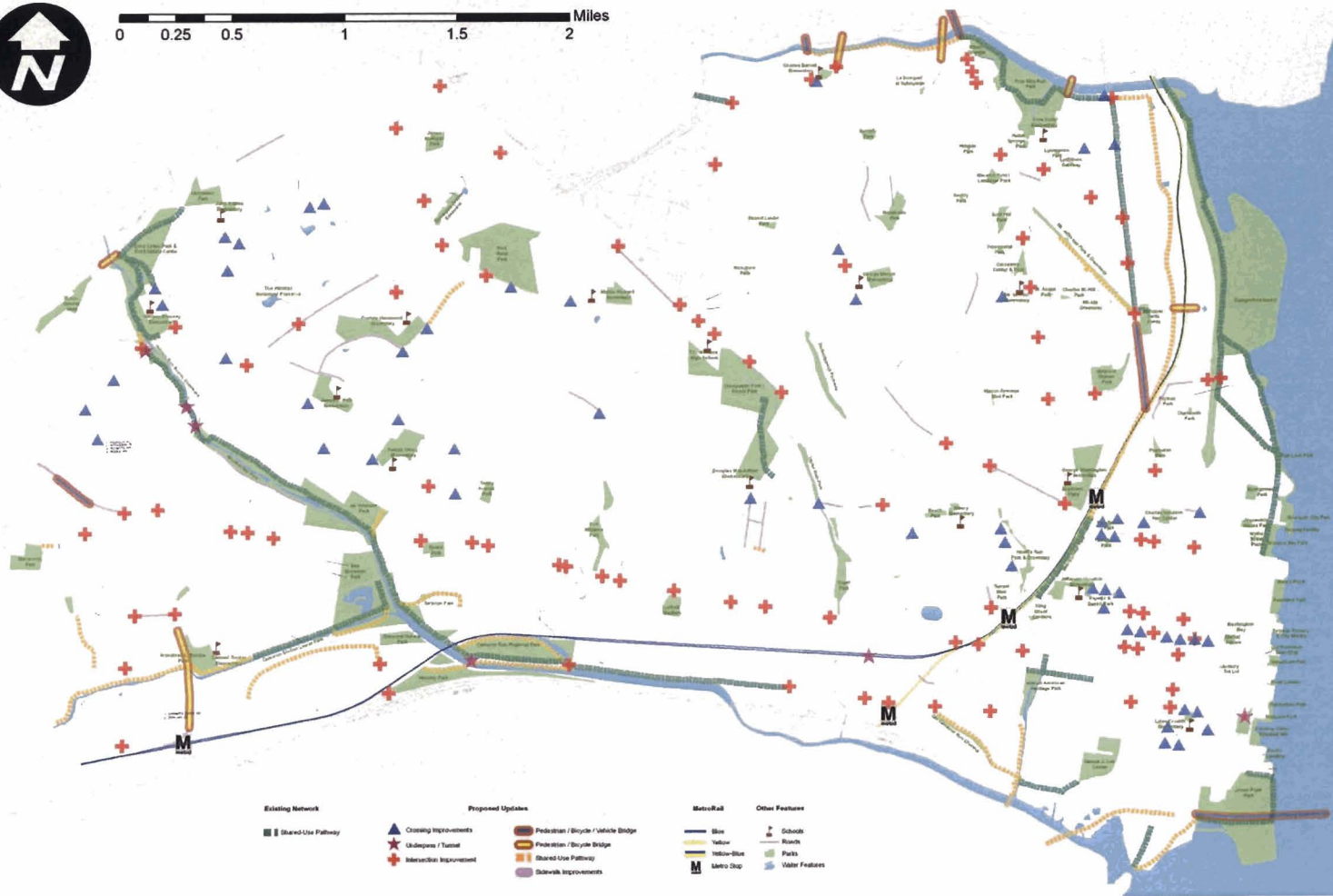
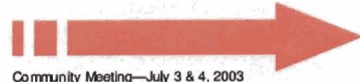
-- architect Peter Calthorpe



# Pedestrian

## What Do Alexandrians Say? Key Pedestrian Workshop Findings

- Consistent sidewalk structure and placement, better crosswalk signage, fix crossing lights
- Countdown to all signals (give pedestrians more time)
- Clear, wide sidewalks, attractive medians
- More sidewalks on the West End
- Create pedestrian-friendly King Street Metro area
- More pedestrian connectivity through dead-end streets
- Consider pedestrian access in future developments
- Introduce ground floor retail, streetscape, public art and sidewalks around Metro stations



Existing Network	Proposed Updates	Metro/Rail	Other Features
Shared-Use Pathway	Crossing Improvements	Blue	Schools
	Underpass / Tunnel	Yellow	Routes
	Intersection Improvement	Yellow-Blue	Parks
	Pedestrian / Bicycle / Vehicle Bridge	M	Water Features
	Pedestrian / Bicycle Bridge		
	Shared-Use Pathway		
	Sidewalk Improvements		

**City of Alexandria: Proposed Pedestrian Facilities Updates**

# Pedestrian

## Why this is different...

- Pedestrians now a serious component of modern transportation system
- Holistic approach
- Focus on accessibility and walkability around transit
- Improved coordination between transportation & planning to reward walking in areas of residential density & mixed use
- Encourages people to integrate walking into daily routines – “active living”



# Pedestrian

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## Policy Levels Goals

- Building on previous efforts (i.e. Community Pathways)
- Avoids being too prescriptive
- Current Pedestrian & Bicycle Mobility Study provides fine-grained support



## Benchmarks



# Actions & Strategies

## **Enforcement and Safety**

- Target enforcement in areas of safety concerns
- Work with schools and transit service providers to identify high-priority crosswalk/intersection improvement projects

## **Engineering**

- Develop a *Pedestrian Design Guide*
- Implement improvements identified in citywide needs study
- Implement Safe Routes to School improvements on priority basis

## **Encouragement**

- Provide commuter benefits for persons who walk to work
- Establish pedestrian accessibility and connectivity standards for development reviews

## **Education**

- Ensure Safe Routes to School includes education component
- Incorporate pedestrian and transit routes in Bicycle Trail and Recreational Facility map
- Integrate walking into alternative transportation website

## **Evaluation**

- Prepare annual benchmark report
- Maintain community input on progress and potential improvements

# Bicycle

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THE CITY WILL BECOME BICYCLE-FRIENDLY BY MAKING ROUTINE ACCOMODATIONS FOR BICYCLISTS ON 'COMPLETE' STREETS AND PATHWAYS THAT ENABLE SAFE TRAVEL FOR ALL USERS.

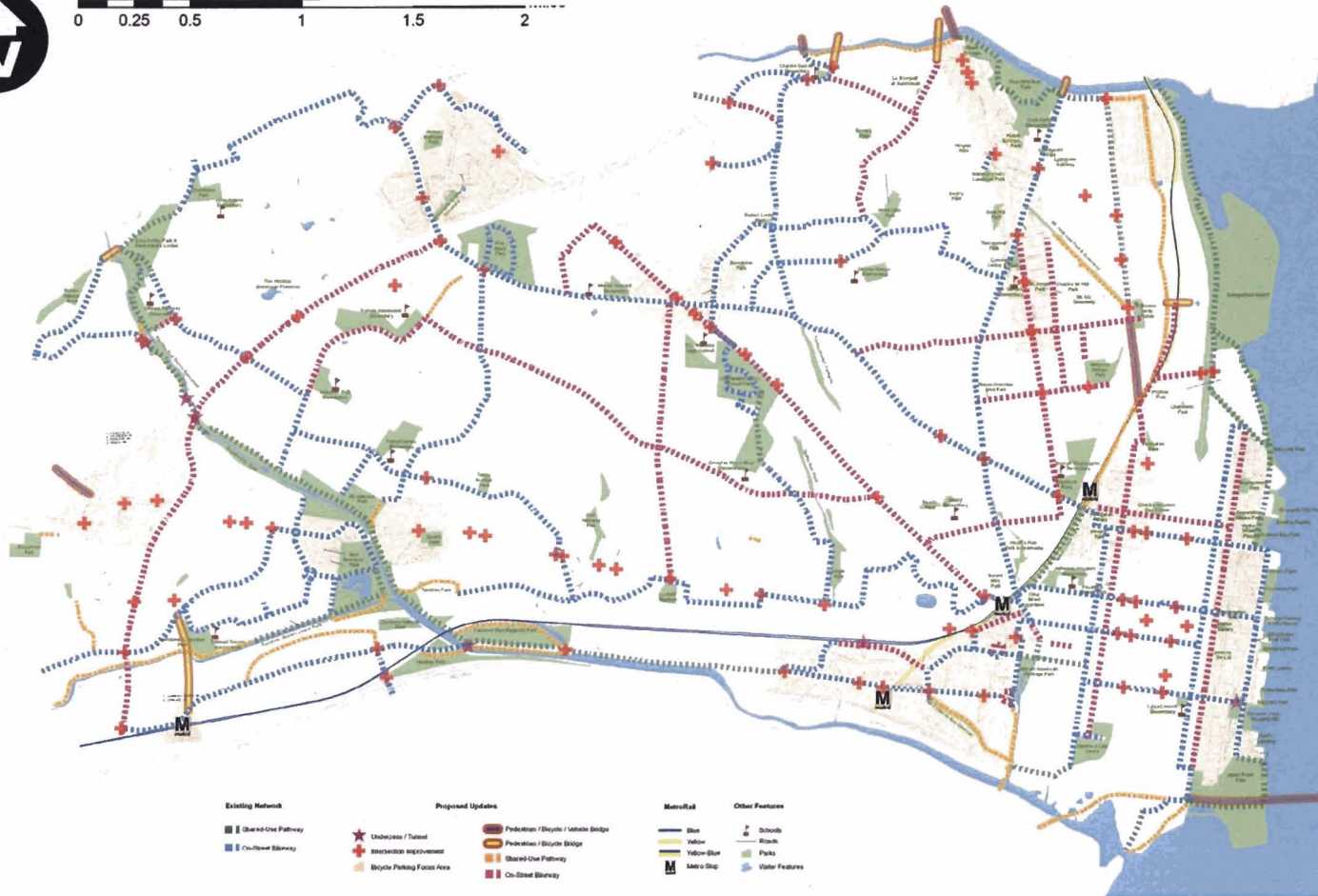


# Bicycle

## What Do Alexandrians Say? Key Bicycle Workshop Findings

- ◆ Better connectivity through major developments
- ◆ Improve safety of existing trails
- ◆ Bike facilities on Duke, Seminary, Janneys and Quaker
- ◆ Create link from West End to Old Town
- ◆ Adequate trail width, center lines on bikeways
- ◆ Bike racks throughout the city
- ◆ Enhance customer service through Internet
- ◆ Focus more on Metro station bike / ped environment

Community Meeting—July 3 & 4, 2003



*City of Alexandria: Proposed Bicycle Facilities Updates*

# Bicycle

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## Why this is different...

- ❑ Routine accommodations for bicyclists
- ❑ Holistic approach
- ❑ Better compatibility between bicycle and transit
- ❑ Safety & Education programs
- ❑ Encourages people to consider bicycling for short trips and commuting



# Bicycle

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- ❑ Policy Levels Goals
  - Building on previous efforts
  - Avoids being too prescriptive
  - Current Pedestrian & Bicycle Mobility Study provides fine-grained support
  
- ❑ Benchmarks



# Actions & Strategies

## Enforcement and Safety

- Target enforcement to encourage riding following Rules of the Road
- Commuter safety programs
- Bicycle safety improvements

## Engineering

- Expand bikeway network
- Enhance maintenance
- Increase accommodations for parking

## Encouragement

- Provide commuter benefits for bicyclists
- Accommodate bicycles on transit vehicles
- Organize and sponsor promotional programs
- Establish bicycle standards for development reviews

## Education

- Integrate Safe Routes to School and Neighborhood Traffic Calming
- Regularly update Bicycle Trail and Recreational Facility map
- Integrate bicycling into alternative transportation website

## Evaluation

- Prepare annual benchmark report

# Streets

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The City will increase the number of people who travel in the City by mass transit, bicycle or walking and become less auto dependent

-- City Strategic Plan 2004-2015



# Streets

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- Street Classification
- Neighborhood Protection
- Travel Demand Management
- Funding
- Actions & Strategies



# Streets

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- Focus on integrated solutions, providing mobility and access to all modes of transportation
- Development of a comprehensive, integrated, connected network that accomodates all users
- Recognizes the need for flexibility: that all streets are different serving differing functions, priorities and user needs
- Focus on the application and development of context sensitive solutions that guide and complement street function

# Actions & Strategies

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1. Ensure streets safely accommodate all users
2. Develop and adopt a "Complete Streets" policy
3. Enhance existing and develop new TDM programs
4. Incorporate technology to improve mobility on arterial streets
5. Enhance safety for all users at signalized intersections
6. Improve the natural and human environment, preserve historic resources and create more enjoyable street spaces
7. Develop comprehensive design guidelines for public street space

# Parking

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**Goal:** A comprehensive parking management strategy that is fully integrated with the city's plans for transit, streets, bicycles and pedestrians and functions in coordination with these plans - furthering the city's overall goals and wider transportation vision.



# Parking

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- Existing Parking Requirements
- Parking Management Principles
- Funding
- Actions & Strategies

# Parking

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- Identifies parking and curbspace management priorities to increase parking efficiency and further the city's wider transportation vision.
- Establishes guiding principles to direct the decision-making process regarding parking policy and programs.
- Establishes a diversity of demand, cost and supply related actions and strategies to comprehensively address parking within the city.

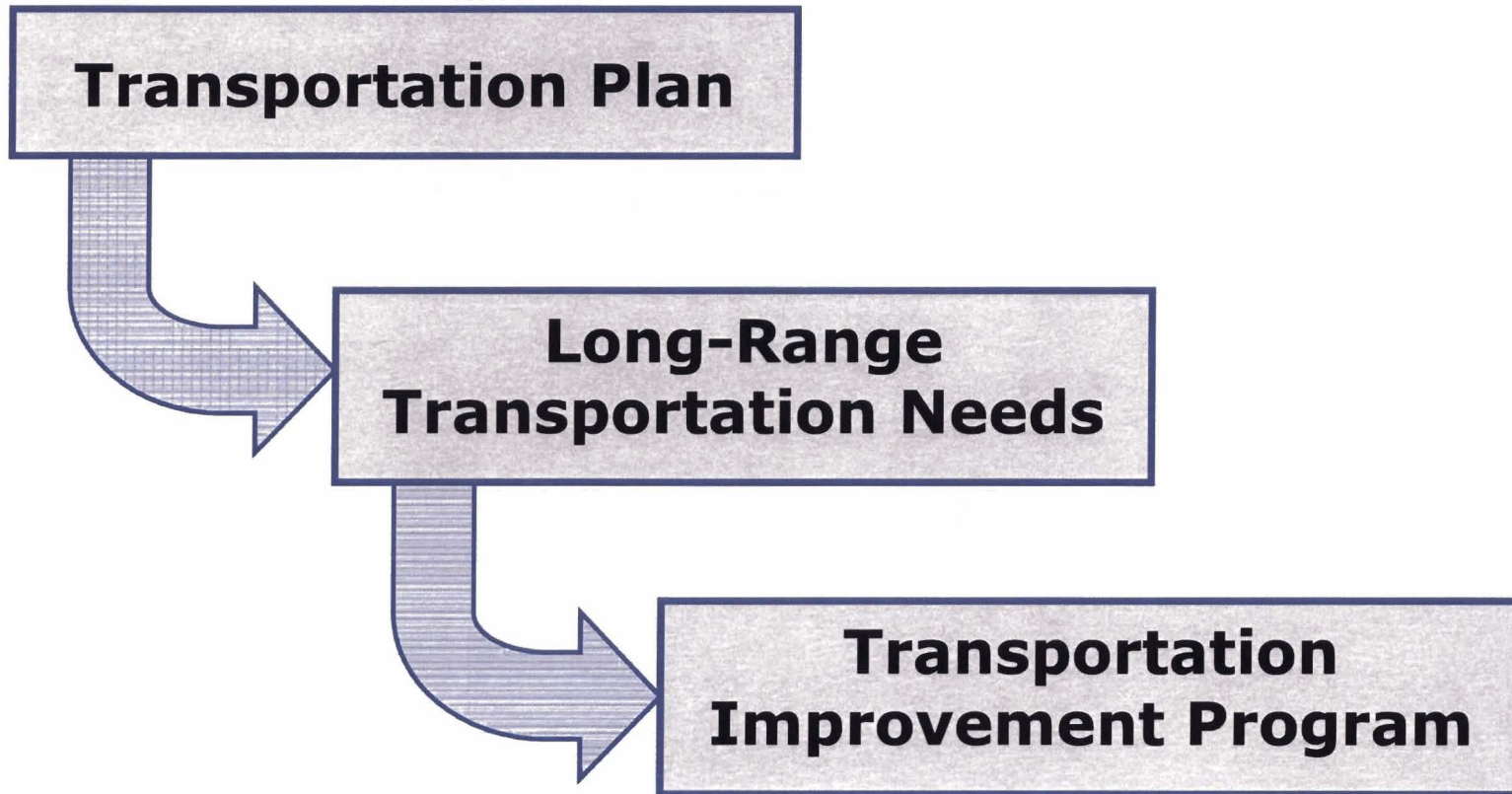
# Actions & Strategies

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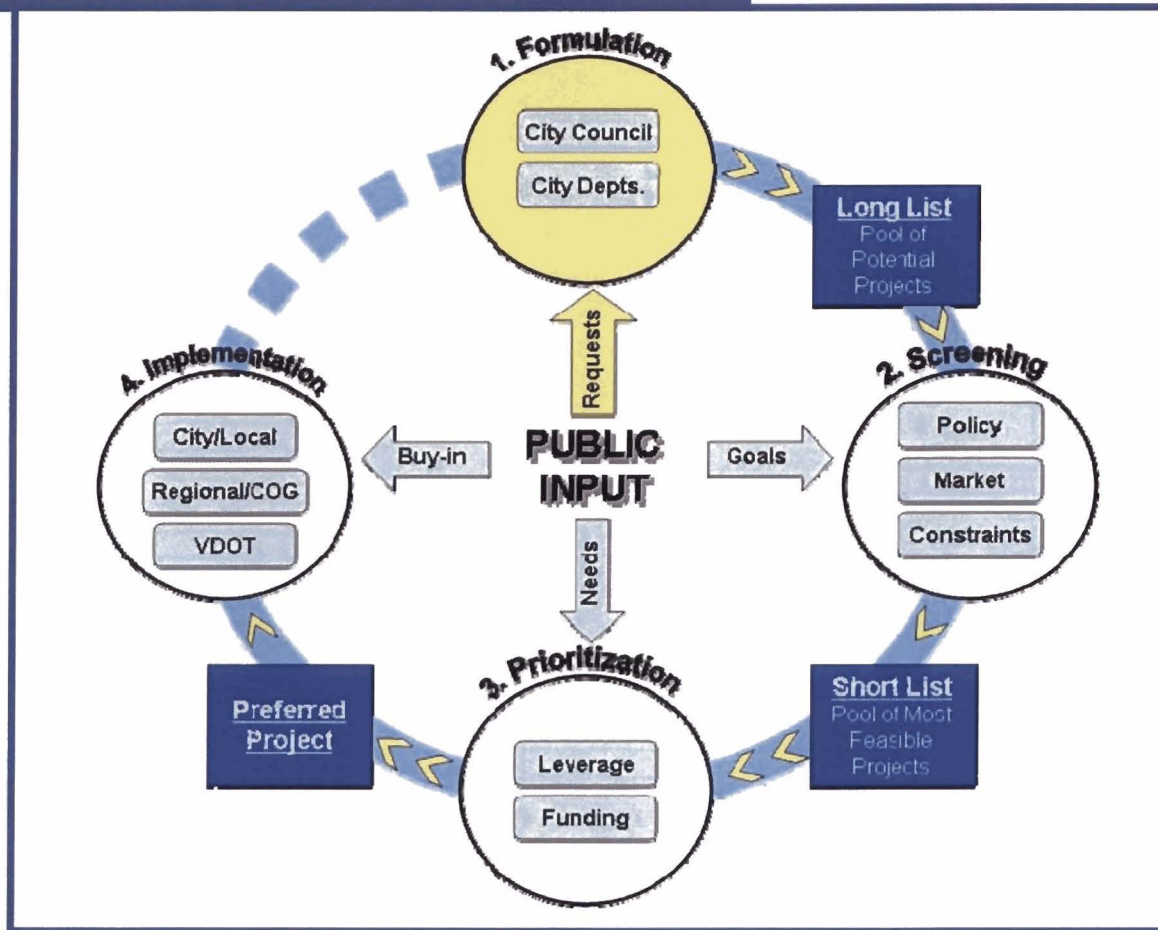
1. Comprehensive study of parking supply, demand and policies
2. Develop comprehensive curbside management program to ensure maximum parking availability
3. Utilize parking policies to help reduce congestion and support TDM programs
4. Implement policies to discourage surface lots in commercial districts
5. Use information technology to provide real-time parking location and availability information
6. Educate property development and management community about unbundling parking from building leases

# Implementation

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# Ongoing Process





# Comments and Questions

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1. I would like to see an analysis of TMP effectiveness. How much money is raised and how is it spent?
2. The plan should address the special needs of the elderly and those who cannot use traditional transportation systems.
3. Does the transit alternatives analysis have to wait for federal money?
4. I attended the meeting at Minnie Howard last week and the information presented was very helpful in understanding the vision for Alexandria.
5. Provide bicycle connectivity from Mt. Vernon Trail to Cameron Run
6. There needs to be long-term dedicated funding to ensure Alexandria is committed to this plan.
7. I took some time to read the draft plan this weekend. I think the chapters are excellent.
8. There should be no street that is not accessible/useable by pedestrians and bicycles.

# Concerns

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1. No listing of specific long-term improvement needs/projects
2. Not enough attention to street improvement needs
3. Potential impacts of transit corridors on neighborhoods and residents, particularly the Route 1 corridor

# Status and Next Steps

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## Plan Adoption:

- Planning Commission – February 5, 2008
  - City Council – February 23, 2008
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## Follow-Up Activities (Following Adoption):

- Incorporate Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Plan
  - Long-Range Needs / Improvements Program
  - Initiate Transit Concept Feasibility Studies
  - Develop Street Design Guidelines
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# Comments & Discussion