


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 4, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO APPROVE LEGISLATION TO INCREASE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA AND STATEWIDE

ISSUE: Consideration of a Resolution requesting the General Assembly to approve legislation to increase transportation funding in Northern Virginia and statewide.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council adopt the attached resolution.

DISCUSSION: The 2007 General Assembly enacted major legislation (House Bill 3202) to fund statewide and regional (Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads) transportation needs. Due to an unfavorable Virginia Supreme Court decision, most of the regional funding is no longer available. Amendments to the legislation in the 2008 Session also reduced the new statewide revenues. Consequently, the General Assembly needs to take action again to provide for serious shortfalls in needed transportation funding.

Governor Kaine has called a Special Session beginning June 23 to address this problem, and proposed a new plan for funding statewide and regional transportation needs. At the same time, the Governor has expressed his willingness to consider alternatives to his proposal, as long as such alternatives provide sufficient and sustainable funding.

The attached resolution asks for the General Assembly to take swift and decisive action to provide new transportation funding, and reminds the General Assembly that it is the Commonwealth's responsibility (not that of local governments) to impose any new taxes and fees.

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Resolution

STAFF:
Bernard Caton, Legislative Director

RESOLUTION No. _____

WHEREAS, the 2007 General Assembly passed legislation (House Bill 3202) to provide special transportation funding for Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, and to increase statewide transportation; and

WHEREAS, major portions of this funding have already been rescinded, due to a ruling by the Virginia Supreme Court or action by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) has identified over \$700 million annually in transportation needs for Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the decrease in state funds for the “6 Year Program” has resulted in a loss of nearly half the state funds that were scheduled to be provided to the City through this program; and

WHEREAS, Governor Timothy M. Kaine has called a Special Session of the General Assembly to enact legislation that will provide new revenue sources to meet the needs of both Northern Virginia and the entire State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has asked the General Assembly to provide revenue sources that are adequate and sustainable to meet the Commonwealth’s regional and statewide needs; and

WHEREAS, further delays in providing needed funding for transportation infrastructure will lead to increased congestion, worsening air quality, and reduced quality of life; and will endanger the economic vitality of our region and the Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alexandria City Council supports the efforts of Governor Timothy M. Kaine to provide both statewide and regional sources of transportation funding, and encourages the General Assembly to act swiftly and decisively to approve legislation that will provide funding for our many unmet regional and statewide transportation needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such legislation should recognize that it is the Commonwealth’s responsibility to impose any new taxes and fees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the President pro Tempore of the Senate of Virginia, and the members of the City’s General Assembly Delegation.

ADOPTED: June 10, 2008

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jackie Henderson, CMC City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2282

WHEREAS, the 2007 General Assembly passed legislation (House Bill 3202) to provide special transportation funding for Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, and to increase statewide transportation; and

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WHEREAS, the decrease in state funds for the "6 Year Program" has resulted in a loss of nearly half the state funds that were scheduled to be provided to the City through this program; and

WHEREAS, Governor Timothy M. Kaine has called a Special Session of the General Assembly to enact legislation that will provide new revenue sources to meet the needs of both Northern Virginia and the entire State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has asked the General Assembly to provide revenue sources that are adequate and sustainable to meet the Commonwealth's regional and statewide needs; and

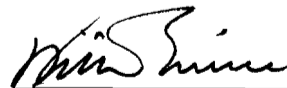
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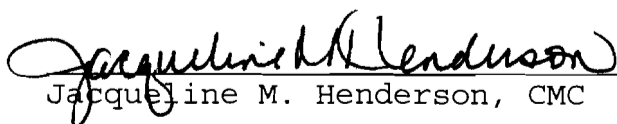
ADOPTED: June 10, 2008



WILLIAM D. EULLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC

City Clerk