


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

**THIS ITEM WILL BE DISCUSSED UNDER CITY MANAGER
ORAL PRESENTATIONS.**

DATE: JANUARY 9, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: FUNDING CHANGES IN THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION
BOARD DRAFT REVISIONS TO SIX-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009 – 2014

ISSUE: Reductions in State transportation funding.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the Mayor to sign the proposed letter (Attachment 2) to the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

BACKGROUND: The Transportation Commission discussed this issue on January 7, and the Mayor indicated that he wanted to discuss transportation funding with the City Council at its January 13 meeting. On December 18, 2008, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) announced that due to reductions in the official state transportation revenue forecast, it was necessary to make mid-year revisions in the FY 2009 – 2014 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) that was adopted in July 2008. At the same time, the State released a draft revised SYIP for FY 2009 – 2014 and set a January 14, 2009, deadline for receipt of comments on the revised program prior to its adoption.

The draft revised plan reduces funding that was allocated in the adopted program in each of the six fiscal years in the program. In particular, Alexandria's urban system funding that was allocated in the FY 2009 program was reduced as follows:

Fiscal Year	Adopted Program Allocation	Revised Program Allocation
2009	\$3,868,208	\$3,284,399
2010	\$3,595,211	\$2,043,150
2011	\$3,484,566	\$1,654,776
2012	\$3,486,115	\$2,221,181
2013	\$3,322,369	\$1,952,709
2014	\$2,464,250	\$1,442,024

Over the six program years, reductions in the revised program total \$7,622,480 or 38 percent of the allocations in the adopted FY 2009 program. These reductions are in addition to the 41 percent funding reduction already included in the adopted FY 2009 program. Overall, urban system funding for Alexandria has decreased about 63 percent compared to what was projected in the FY 2008 program.

In order to preserve adequate funding for Alexandria's top priority projects, it is necessary that we ask for changes in the draft revised FY 2009 program. To this end, staff presented and discussed its recommendations for changes in the draft revised FY 2009 program at the City's Transportation Commission at its meeting on January 7, 2009 (Attachment 1). These changes were to:

1. Program the City's revised FY 2009 allocation of approximately \$3.284 million to UPC 77378 (Eisenhower Avenue Widening).
2. Reflect the FY 2009 transfer of approximately \$8.035 million from UPC 52175 (Clermont Avenue) to UPC 77378 (Eisenhower Avenue Widening).
3. Reflect the FY 2009 transfer of approximately \$1.385 million from UPC 52175 (Clermont Avenue) to UPC 8645 (Rte 7 – Improvements at Beauregard).
4. Program the City's allocations for FY 2010 through 2014 to a pending new project for the Purchase of DASH Buses.

Understanding that funding included in the FY 2009 - 2014 program for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 could be reconsidered in the FY 2010 – 2015 program, the Transportation Commission agreed with these changes and voted unanimously to recommend them to the City Council.

Attached is a letter from the Mayor to the Commonwealth Transportation Board conveying the City's request for changes in the draft revised FY 2009 – 2014 Six-Year Improvement Program (Attachment 2). In light of the January 14, 2009, deadline for responding to the Board on this matter, at its January 13 legislative meeting, Council will be asked to concur with this letter being submitted as the City's official comments on the draft revised FY 2009 – 2014 program.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Alexandria Transportation Commission, January 7, 2009, Agenda Item 4
Attachment 2: Draft Letter from Mayor Euille to Pierce Homer

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Rich Baier, Director, T&ES

Tom Culpepper, Deputy Director, T&ES

Alexandria Transportation Commission
January 7, 2009
Agenda Item 4

Subject: Consideration of the City of Alexandria's Request for Funding in the Commonwealth's FY 2010 – 2015 Six-Year Improvement Program

ISSUE

Recommendation to City Council of priorities for programming urban system funds expected to be allocated to Alexandria in the Commonwealth Transportation Board FY2010 – 2015 Six-Year Improvement Program.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Transportation Commission endorse and recommend to City Council the programming of the urban system funds that are allocated to Alexandria in the FY 2010 – 2015 Six-Year Improvement Program as proposed in this memorandum.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) adopts an updated Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for transportation. This program allocates projected state and federal funding for transportation projects that are proposed for study, development or construction during the next six fiscal years. The CTB is now preparing an updated SYIP for fiscal years 2010 through 2015 that will become effective on July 1, 2009.

During recent years, funding that is projected to be available through the SYIP and its urban system program has decreased significantly. In February 2008 based on a revised estimate of the amount of state and federal funding that would be available to support projects included in the SYIP, the Commonwealth's Secretary of Transportation announced a projected reduction in Six-Year Program revenues of approximately \$1.1 billion during fiscal years 2008 through 2014. This resulted in an approximate 44 percent reduction in urban system funding in the FY 2009 – 2014 SYIP. Alexandria's funding allocations in the FY 2009 program decreased from an average of \$5.8 million to \$3.2 million per year in the FY 2009 SYIP. Recently, the state announced that additional reductions in projected Six-Year Plan revenues could be expected to reduce urban system funding by an additional 40 to 45 percent. With this additional shortfall, Alexandria's expected funding allocations would decrease to about \$1.5 million per year.

In reaction to the most recently projected revenue reductions, the CTB has also taken the unusual action of reconsidering the current FY 2009 – 2014 SYIP. Although the impacts of these additional revenue shortfalls are not yet clear, it is estimated that the urban

system allocations in the FY 2009 – 2014 SYIP will be reduced by an additional 15 percent.

DISCUSSION

The programming of Alexandria's funding allocations in the FY 2009 – 2014 SYIP are shown in the attached SYIP funding table. Note that this funding is based on the SYIP adopted on July 1, 2008 and does not reflect any reductions that may result from the CTB's current reconsideration of the FY 2009 program. In summary, the FY 2009 SYIP programmed funding through FY 2014 for:

1. Widening of Eisenhower Avenue between Holland Lane and Stovall Street;
2. Purchase of replacement transit buses for Alexandria Transit Company (DASH);
3. Improvements to Edsall Road near Van Dorn Street; and
4. Replacing funding that was reprogrammed from phase 2 of the Clermont (Eisenhower) Avenue interchange project.

In light of the limited amount of funding that is expected in the FY 2010 – 2015 SYIP, staff recommends that the programming of these funds as established in the FY 2009 program be maintained with minor adjustments in out year funding for bus purchases and that first priority be given to the purchase of replacement buses needed to operate the DASH transit system and second priority be given to Edsall Road improvements. The recommended programming of Alexandria's annual funding allocation is shown in the attached SYIP funding table. Note that the total annual allocations in this table are based on the adopted FY 2009 program as the amounts of any additional reductions are not yet known.

Fortunately, the City has secured funding to complete two major roadway improvement projects with funds that have been previously allocated. These are the King-Beauregard intersection improvements and the widening of Eisenhower Avenue between Holland and Stovall. Through other funding sources, the City also has confirmed funding to complete over \$4 million of nonmotorized transportation improvements in the City and to construct needed improvements to Washington Street.

While other projects, such as reconstructing Madison and Montgomery Street from Fairfax Street to St. Asaph Street, were considered as possible recipients of urban system funds, the amount of money expected to be available in the FY 2010 program would not be sufficient to fund any of these projects. Staff recommends that they be considered as candidate projects for funding through other programs, such as the state revenue sharing program.

The City has been progressive in utilizing its urban system funding for all modes of travel. The new DASH maintenance facility that is currently being constructed is funded primarily with urban funds and the City has also allocated urban funds in past years for the purchase of both new and replacement buses for DASH. In order support the City's Strategic Plan goal of providing an integrated multi-modal transportation system that can effectively get people from point A to point B, it is necessary to maintain our bus fleet in

good repair. As such, when buses have reached the end of their useful operating life they must be replaced. With an operating life of 12 years and a fleet of approximately 60 vehicles, an average of five replacement buses are needed by DASH each year. Since there are no funds other than urban program funds currently available for this purpose, staff proposes that first priority for funding in the FY 2010 – 2015 SYIP be the purchase of needed replacement buses.

FISCAL IMPACT: This action will require that the City provide a 2% local match for the urban system funds it receives from the Commonwealth. For an average allocation of \$1.5 million, a \$30,000 local match will be required.

Attachment: Six-Year Improvement Program Funding

STAFF: Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES
Thomas H. Culpepper, P.E., Deputy Director, T&ES
James Maslanka, Division Chief of Transit, T&ES
Antonio Baxter, Division Chief of Administration, T&ES
Malik Williams, Fiscal Officer, T&ES
Bernard Caton, Legislative Director, City Manager's Office

Six-Year Improvement Program

Part A: FY 2009-2014 Six-Year Improvement Program Funding

Project		Estimated Cost	FY 2009 - 2014 SYIP							Total
UPC	Description		Prior Year Funding	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	
(Amounts in Thousands of Dollars)										
77378	Eisenhower Avenue Widening	18,000	16,943	1,057						18,000
52175	Clermont Avenue - 4 Lane (PE only in SYIP)	2,093	500			182	1,167	621	1,800	4,270
57072	Purchase of Buses		3,731	2,404	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,400	1,200	15,735
New	Edsall Road Improvements	2,315	0		1,308	1,007				
Total Funding Request				3,461	3,308	3,189	3,167	3,021	3,000	19,146
Estimated Total Allocation				3,461	3,308	3,189	3,167	3,021	3,000	19,146

Part A: FY 2010-2015 Six-Year Improvement Program Funding

Project		Estimated Cost	FY 2009 - 2014 SYIP							Total
UPC	Description		Prior Year Funding	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	
(Amounts in Thousands of Dollars)										
77378	Eisenhower Avenue Widening	18,000	18,000							18,000
52175	Clermont Avenue - 4 Lane (PE only in SYIP)	2,093	500		182	1,167	621	1,800		4,270
57072	Purchase of Buses		2,404	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,400	2,000	2,400	15,204
New	Edsall Road Improvements	2,315	0	1,308	1,007					2,315
Total Funding Request				3,308	3,189	3,167	3,021	3,800	2,400	18,885
Estimated Total Allocation				3,308	3,189	3,167	3,021	3,000	3,191	18,876
Allocation based on 12-18-08 working draft revised FY 2009 - 2014 SYIP				2,043	1,655	2,221	1,953	1,442	1,863	11,177

DRAFT
1/8/09

[Mayor's Letterhead]

January 14, 2009

The Honorable Pierce R. Homer
Secretary of Transportation and Chairman
of the Commonwealth Transportation Board
P. O. Box 1473
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Re: FY 2009-2014 Six-Year Improvement Program

Dear Secretary Homer:

On behalf of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, I am pleased to submit the following comments on the December 18, 2008, working draft of the revised Six-Year Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2009-2014, and ask they be accepted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board for inclusion in the final adopted plan. These comments were approved for submission to the Board by the Alexandria City Council at its meeting on January 13, 2009.

Alexandria's comments on the working draft of the revised FY 2009-2014 program reflect our priorities for funding the City's most critical and time sensitive projects. These are:

1. Widening of Eisenhower Avenue (UPC 77378);
2. Construction of Intersection Improvements at King Street (Route 7) and Beauregard Street (UPC 8645); and
3. Purchase of DASH buses (pending new project).

In both the FY 2008 and 2009 programs, the City has requested transfers of previous year funding among our existing projects in order to fully fund two of our top priority projects and understand from VDOT staff that these transfers are now being made. Based on this understanding, the City asks that the working draft revised FY 2009 - 2014 program be revised as follows:

1. Program the City's revised FY 2009 allocation of approximately \$3.284 million to UPC 77378 (Eisenhower Avenue Widening).
2. Reflect the FY 2009 transfer of approximately \$8.035 million from UPC 52175 (Clermont Avenue) to UPC 77378 (Eisenhower Avenue Widening).
3. Reflect the FY 2009 transfer of approximately \$1.385 million from UPC 52175 (Clermont Avenue) to UPC 8645 (Rte 7 - Improvements at Beauregard).

The Honorable Pierce R. Homer
January 14, 2009
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4. Program the City's allocations for FY 2010 through 2014 to a pending new project for the Purchase of DASH Buses.

A Council resolution requesting the creation of a new project for the purchase of DASH buses will be submitted under separate cover.

In closing, I extend the City's sincere appreciation for the Board's continuing support of our program requests and for its efforts to resolve the current and projected shortfalls in state and regional transportation funding. We appreciate the difficult circumstances which forced the Board to undertake a revision of the adopted FY 2009-2014 program and pledge to continue our support for efforts to address the transportation funding crisis that we are now facing.

On behalf of the City of Alexandria, I thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments on the revised FY 2009 program, and respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and continuing support.

Sincerely,

William D. Euille
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Members of the Alexandria City Council
Chair and Members of the Alexandria Transportation Commission
James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
Richard Burke, NOVA District Urban Program Manager, VDOT