

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A Resolution on the Need for Transportation Solutions that Protect Virginia's General Fund for Education, Mental Health, Public Safety and Other Core Services

WHEREAS, transportation dedicated taxes and fees have remained virtually unchanged in the Commonwealth since 1987; and

WHEREAS, quality transportation, high achieving public schools, effective public safety and health services are essential to ensure Virginia can build a long and sustainable economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Great Recession has presented Alexandria and local governments across the Commonwealth with the largest loss of revenue and the most challenging budgets since the Great Depression and continues to require unprecedented cuts to local services; and

WHEREAS, the economy has forced State budget cuts to health, mental health, social, conservation, public safety and other important programs which have further strained local services; and

WHEREAS, we anticipate additional pressure on local budgets from the predicted drop in commercial property values and from significant and mandatory Virginia Retirement System payments; and

WHEREAS, we applaud Governor Kaine's leadership in protecting the funding for K-12 education, but understand that continued weakness in Virginia's economy puts the continued protection of K-12 funding at risk; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Virginia requires the Commonwealth to properly fund quality elementary and secondary education services that ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed in school and life; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Stimulus dollars will not last forever and can't be counted on to prop-up education and other essential funding; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth and local governments have long-standing partnerships for the provision of education, health services, social service programs, mental health services, conservation programs and public safety services; and

WHEREAS, continued service cuts reduce our chance at a sustainable economic recovery as weakened crime, drop-out and other preventive programs will cause higher future costs to society through increased crime and a less prepared work-force; and

WHEREAS, essential transportation maintenance as well as system improvements throughout our Commonwealth are essential to a lasting economic

recovery, but VDOT has been reduced to essentially a very limited maintenance organization threatening the Commonwealth's ability to sustain an improving economy; and

WHEREAS, city streets, bridges, bike paths, the DASH bus system and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation System are critical to our regional economy and the quality of life of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a sustainable State transportation funding is causing Alexandria and communities throughout the Commonwealth to struggle to keep up with basic transportation maintenance, let alone improvements; and

WHEREAS, in upcoming years, it will be impossible, using existing resources, to maintain basic City services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council ask the Governor and the Virginia General Assembly:

- 1) To work expeditiously to enact a bi-partisan solution to Virginia's transportation challenges that will meet Virginia's transportation needs, using sustainable, reliable, proven, and permanent sources of funding and that will not reduce the capacity of the state General Fund to support education, health, public safety and other core services.
- 2) To ensure a new and dedicated transportation-funding plan that includes a sustainable and reliable funding source for transit services.
- 3) To oppose any transportation-funding plan that would reduce state funding for elementary and secondary education, thus forcing local school boards to cut teacher jobs, increase class sizes or otherwise harm the quality of Virginia public schools.
- 4) To oppose any transportation-funding plan that would force local governments to cut public safety, mental health and other core services that protect their community.
- 5) To ensure that any transportation funding plan honors the longstanding partnership between local government and the Commonwealth to share in the support for the quality of life and economic prosperity of our community.

ADOPTED: _____

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2361

A Resolution on the Need for Transportation Solutions that Protect Virginia's General Fund for Education, Mental Health, Public Safety and Other Core Services

WHEREAS, transportation dedicated taxes and fees have remained virtually unchanged in the Commonwealth since 1987; and

WHEREAS, quality transportation, high achieving public schools, effective public safety and health services are essential to ensure Virginia can build a long and sustainable economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, the current Recession has presented Alexandria and local governments across the Commonwealth with the largest loss of revenue and the most challenging budgets since the Great Depression and continues to require unprecedented cuts to local services; and

WHEREAS, the economy has forced State budget cuts to health, mental health, social, conservation, public safety and other important programs which have further strained local services; and

WHEREAS, we anticipate additional pressure on local budgets from the predicted drop in commercial property values and from significant and mandatory Virginia Retirement System payments; and

WHEREAS, we applaud Governor Kaine's leadership in protecting the funding for K-12 education, but understand that continued weakness in Virginia's economy puts the continued protection of K-12 funding at risk; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Virginia requires the Commonwealth to properly fund quality elementary and secondary education services that ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed in school and life; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Stimulus dollars will not last forever and can't be counted on to prop-up education and other essential funding; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth and local governments have long-standing partnerships for the provision of education, health services, social service programs, mental health services, conservation programs and public safety services; and

WHEREAS, continued service cuts reduce our chance at a sustainable economic recovery as weakened crime, drop-out and other preventive programs will cause higher future costs to society through increased crime and a less prepared work-force; and

WHEREAS, essential transportation maintenance as well as system improvements throughout our Commonwealth are essential to a lasting economic recovery, but VDOT has been reduced to essentially a very limited maintenance organization threatening the Commonwealth's ability to sustain an improving economy; and

WHEREAS, city streets, bridges, bike paths, the DASH bus system and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation System are critical to our regional economy and the quality of life of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a sustainable State transportation funding is causing Alexandria and communities throughout the Commonwealth to struggle to keep up with basic transportation maintenance, let alone improvements; and

WHEREAS, in upcoming years, it will be impossible, using existing resources, to maintain basic City services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council ask the Governor and the Virginia General Assembly:

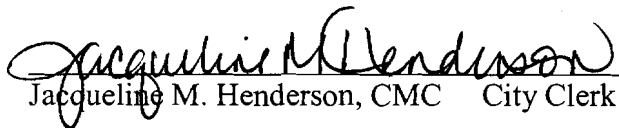
- 1) To work expeditiously to enact a bi-partisan solution to Virginia's transportation challenges that will meet Virginia's transportation needs, using sustainable, reliable, proven, and permanent sources of funding and that will not reduce the capacity of the state General Fund to support education, health, public safety and other core services.
- 2) To ensure a new and dedicated transportation-funding plan that includes a sustainable and reliable funding source for transit services.
- 3) To oppose any transportation-funding plan that would reduce state funding for elementary and secondary education, thus forcing local school boards to cut teacher jobs, increase class sizes or otherwise harm the quality of Virginia public schools.
- 4) To oppose any transportation-funding plan that would force local governments to cut public safety, mental health and other core services that protect their community.
- 5) To ensure that any transportation funding plan honors the longstanding partnership between local government and the Commonwealth to share in the support for the quality of life and economic prosperity of our community.

ADOPTED: October 13, 2009



WILLIAM D. EULLE MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk