



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

September 21, 2023

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for the FY 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its September 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the City of Alexandria's 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program application. Consistent with the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan, the proposed application will help us advance transit-oriented development planning in the Duke Street Corridor of Alexandria.

The City is a leader in advancing and expanding equitable transportation access and providing new methods for guideway and transit project corridors. This grant would provide funding to better integrate land use and transportation planning in the planning process for this area. In June 2023, City Council approved the concept design for the Duke Street Transitway. That same month, the City approved the FY 2024-2025 Long-Range Planning Work Program, identifying the Duke Street Corridor Plan as the next Comprehensive Plan the City will undertake, scheduled to begin mid-2024. This planning effort represents an opportunity to promote equity and sustainability through the creation and retention of affordable housing and mixed-use development near transit and increased street, sidewalk, and bicycle-network connections. The funding opportunity aligns well to timing and need.

The proposed planning effort will comprehensively analyze and update land use for the areas adjacent to the planned Duke Street bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor to reflect current City policy and priorities related to housing affordability, equity, sustainability, and mobility while leveraging transit-oriented development principles, such as walkability, variety of uses, and transit-supportive density, among others. The planning effort will continue to integrate recommendations from the recently completed transit planning process for the corridor.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff's proposal and to provide its endorsement to Council.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

CC: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Jeffrey Farmer, Deputy Director, Department of Planning & Zoning
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Carrie Beach, Division Chief of Neighborhood Planning, Dept. of Planning & Zoning
Andra Schmitt, Urban Planner 1, Department of Planning & Zoning
Megan Oleynik, Transportation Planning, T&ES