

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MARCH 20, 2013

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER /s/

**DOCKET TITLE:**

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Consideration of a Grant Application to the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) New Freedom Program

**..BODY**

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a resolution and grant application for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Freedom Program funding to improve access to transit for seniors and persons with disabilities.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

1. Adopt the attached resolution; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to:
  - A. Submit the grant application and the resolution to the FTA for funding in the amount of \$320,000, to be matched by \$80,000 in FY 2013 City funds, for a program total of \$400,000;
  - B. Execute all necessary documents that may be required under this program.

**BACKGROUND:** The FTA has authorized funding from the New Freedom Program in the Washington metropolitan area through federal fiscal year 2013. The New Freedom Program is intended to be used to support projects proven in the ability to meet the transportation needs of seniors and people with disabilities. This funding plan was reviewed and approved for submission to City Council by the Transportation Commission on March 13, 2013. The grant application must be post-marked by April 13, 2013.

**DISCUSSION:** The FTA is accepting grant applications for projects that improve access to transit for seniors and person with disabilities. Upgrading and maintaining infrastructure to improve access for all public transportation users is a major component of the City of Alexandria's Complete Streets Program.

The City's Commission on Aging and Commission on Persons with Disabilities are advocating sidewalk and curb upgrades to improve access to transit and enhance pedestrian safety at street crossings. The New Freedom grant will provide funding to make these improvements possible at four locations. These funds will be used at the intersections of N. Washington Street and Oronoco Street, N. Washington Street and Princess Street, Pendleton Street and N. St. Asaph Street, Pendleton Street and N. Columbus Street (attachment 2).

Improvements to the intersections include the installation of audible, pedestrian count-down signals, curb ramp upgrades to ensure compliance with ADA standards, upgraded high visibility crosswalk markings, sidewalk and curb improvements on Pendleton Street and a bus bench at the Princess Street bust stop. The design and construction cost of these improvements total \$400,000 (attachment 3).

The promotion of walking for seniors and persons with disabilities improves public health and creates stronger communities and a more prosperous and livable Alexandria. Improving walkability and access to transit are several goals outlined in the 2008 Transportation Master Plan and are supported by City Council's 2010 Strategic Plan in Goal # 2 - *Alexandria respects, protects and enhances the health of its citizens and the quality of its natural environment* and Goal #3 - *A multimodal transportation network that supports sustainable land use and provides internal mobility and regional connectivity for Alexandrians.*

This grant application is supported by partners throughout the City including the Commission on Aging, the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, and the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (attachment 4).

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The City will need to fund a 20 percent match in the amount of \$80,000 to match the FTA amount of \$320,000 in federal funds, for a total program budget of \$400,000. The City's match portion of funding for this grant will come from the existing Complete Streets Program, which was included in the City's FY 2013 approved budget.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Attachment 1: Resolution
- Attachment 2: Map of Locations
- Attachment 3: Improvements by Intersection
- Attachment 4: Letters of Support

**STAFF:**

- Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
- Jerome Fletcher, Special Assistant to the City Manager
- Christopher Bever, Budget Analyst, OMB
- Richard Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, T&ES
- Sandra Marks, Acting Deputy Director, T&ES
- Malik Williams, Fiscal Operations Manager, T&ES
- Carrie Sanders, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, T&ES
- Hillary Poole, Complete Streets Coordinator, T&ES