

Alexandria Transportation Commission 301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Mayor Allison Silberberg and Members of City Council City Hall 301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

February 18, 2016

Re: West End Transitway

Dear Mayor Silberberg and Members of City Council:

At its February 17, 2016 meeting, the Transportation Commission (Commission) held a public hearing on the City's West End Transitway project, including the Resolution of Support for the Build Alternative by the Policy Advisory Group (PAG).

The Transportation Commission voted to endorse the West End Transitway proposal, including the recommendations of the PAG, and supports advancement to the design phase. The West End Transitway, and in particular, the Build alternative, is an important project that is consistent with the City's Transportation Master Plan. The project is essential in providing fast, reliable and connected transit service to the West End of Alexandria. It provides essential streetscape and non-motorized improvements to the corridor, and supports opportunities for economic development.

In addition the Commission recommends that staff and Council address the following considerations through the City's budget process. These steps support evaluation of the Transitway to ensure its performance is optimized once the Bus Rapid Transit service is in operation.

- 1) Identification of evaluation and design criteria to monitor the performance of the Build alternative;
- 2) Identification of measures and approaches to alleviate transit travel time increases in non-dedicated lane sections of the corridor;
- 3) Identification of evaluation and decision criteria to determine an appropriate timeframe for conversion from Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to streetcar, if feasible, and;
- 4) Development of a multimodal corridor plan for the segment of North Beauregard Street between Seminary Road and King Street.

Finally, based on input received through the public hearing, the Commission recommends that, during the Design phase, the City refine the Build alternative to ensure that the intersection of North Van Dorn Street at Sanger Avenue and Richenbacher Avenue is designed to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review the West End Transitway project, as well as the consideration of its input by Council.

Sincerely,

Jerry King

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission

Mark Jinks, City Manager Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES