



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

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

June 16, 2016

Re: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Balance

Dear Mayor Silberberg and Members of City Council:

At its June 15, 2016 meeting, the Transportation Commission evaluated City staff's proposal to use the FY17 TIP balance of \$566,000 to fund WMATA's NH2 bus service. This pilot bus service proposes to connect the King Street Metrorail Station to National Harbor with additional stops at the Huntington Metrorail Station in Fairfax County, the future MGM Casino, and the park-and-ride lot in Oxon Hill.

As the proposed service will provide transportation options for tourists and employees alike between Alexandria and National Harbor, the Transportation Commission fully supports the use of the TIP balance for the proposed NH2 pilot service, but does so with the following qualifications:

- The Commission recommends that Council's support for this pilot be contingent on a proposed operating contribution in the amount of \$500,000 from the Peterson Group. As currently negotiated, this amount would be paid annually should the pilot service extend into future years.
- As the pilot is refined, the Commission advises that Council evaluate and comment on the proposed route to WMATA and participating jurisdictions. As proposed, the circuitous nature of the route segments in Prince George's County introduces unnecessary distance and delay between the stops that the Commission believes will generate the most demand: King Street Metrorail Station and National Harbor. The Commission suggests that one route option warranting significant consideration is to route buses from the King Street Metrorail Station directly to National Harbor. A bus would then travel to the MGM Casino, followed by the Oxon Hill park-and-ride, back to

the MGM Casino, and then back to National Harbor. This suggestion creates a direct connection between the King Street Metrorail Station and National Harbor.

The Commission appreciates Council's consideration of its input on the proposed NH2 service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J.J. King III", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J.J. King III
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Carrie Sanders, Acting Deputy Director, T&ES