



Legislation Text

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 4, 2016

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER /s/

DOCKET TITLE:

Consideration of a Grant Application to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) for the Transform 66 Multimodal Project for Multimodal Real Time Transportation Information Screens.

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) for the Transform 66 Multimodal Project for Multimodal Real Time Transportation Information screens.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1. Ratify the prior submission of a \$200,000 grant application for a Transform 66 Multimodal Project grant for Multimodal Real Time Transportation Information screens; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required under this program.

BACKGROUND: In 2015, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) authorized the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to install and operate a tolling system on the segment of I-66 inside the beltway. In 2016, VDOT announced \$5 million in grant funding to be awarded for initial corridor improvements to be put in place when tolling begins. The funds are intended to be available to projects that meet criteria for geographic linkage to the I-66 corridor and increase travel options along I-66 once tolling is implemented. The program is referred to as the Transform 66 Multimodal Project. The NVTC was selected as the organization to develop the grant application and coordinate the review process for the grant funds.

DISCUSSION: While the City of Alexandria is technically outside the identified corridor for I-66 eligible projects, the City is seeking more efficient use of its existing transportation systems, including those that link to the I-66 Corridor. By providing information and resources about travel options, the City seeks

to manage demand of its constrained transportation system. To further this goal, the City requested funding to install multimodal real time transportation information screens within key Alexandria employment and transportation locations (see Attachment 1). The total grant request of \$200,000 includes \$10,000 in local match from the City's existing FY 2017 CMAQ program. A portion of the information screens will be dedicated to providing multimodal options to commuters traveling from the I-66 corridor to Alexandria. Some of the locations for transit screens include City Hall, Metrorail stations, Mark Center, the Patent and Trademark Office, the National Science Foundation, and Southern Towers.

Due to the short application period of three weeks, and the compressed timeframe in which NVTC was able to develop the application, it was necessary for staff to complete and submit the application by Thursday, March 23, 2016.

FISCAL IMPACT: If the application is approved, \$10,000 from the existing FY 2017 Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds dedicated to Transportation Demand Management programs would be re-obligated to provide the local match. The application includes funding for operating and maintaining the screens for two years. After the initial two years, \$15,000 in future CMAQ funds annually would be obligated for ongoing maintenance and operations of the screens.

ATTACHMENT: Real-time Multimodal Transportation Screens

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