

Arlington Transit Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
February 13, 2018
7:00 p.m.
2300 Wilson Blvd (Navy League Building)
Lobby Level Conference Room

TAC Members Present:

John Carten
Herschel Kanter
Laura MacNeil
Erika Chiang
James Davenport
Alexa Mavroidis (via phone)

Other Attendees Present:

Lynn Rivers (staff)
Pierre Holloman (staff)
Bee Buergler (staff)
Steve Yaffe (staff)
William Jones (staff)
Tim Roseboom (staff)
Andre Stafford (WMATA)
Conor Courtney (Public)
Debra MacKenzie (WMATA RAC)

Call to Order

- John Carten opened the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Approval of Meeting Notes from January 16, 2018

- January 16, 2018 meeting notes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

- No public comments submitted, no speakers from the public.

Transit Capital Projects Update – Bee Buergler

- Bee Buergler provided an update on transit projects proposed for the FY2019-FY2028 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), applications submitted as part of a FY2019 capital funding request to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), and applications submitted to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for their FY2018-FY2023 Six Year Program. The CIP is a ten-year plan which is updated every two years and is adopted by the County Board. It addresses immediate infrastructure and longer-term capital needs for Arlington. Twenty-two transit projects have been proposed for the FY2019-FY2028 CIP, including but not limited to: needs for Arlington Transit (ART) buses, ART farebox upgrades, ART facilities, bus stop accessibility

improvements, Transitway expansions, transit technology, off-vehicle fare collection, and improvements to various Metrorail Stations in Arlington. Draft requests were provided to the Arlington Department of Management and Finance (DMF) in January 2018. DMF will submit a draft proposed CIP to the County Manager in April 2018 for review. In May 2018, the County Manager will submit the proposed CIP to the County Board. It is anticipated that the County Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed CIP in either May or June 2018. The County Board is expected to adopt the FY2019-FY2028 CIP in July 2018.

- The CIP includes assumptions and asks which leverage state and regional funding with local funding. As part of this leveraging, staff submitted grants to DRPT and NVTA for transit capital improvements. Regarding DRPT, on February 1, 2018, staff submitted a funding request for a total of \$20 million for seven projects. The projects include: land acquisition as well as facility design and construction for an ART Heavy Maintenance and Repair Facility, land acquisition as well as planning, design, and construction for an ART Operations and Maintenance Facility in Shirlington, construction of Ballston Multimodal Improvements around the entrance to the Ballston-MU Metrorail station, Transit Intelligent Transportation Systems and Security Program, off-vehicle fare collection for the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway and Columbia Pike corridors, engineering and design of a full second entrance to the Crystal City Metrorail Station (east end), and improvements for bus stop and shelter program. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is expected to make its decision on funding these grant requests in June 2018.
- On December 15, 2017, staff submitted four applications for transit projects to the NVTA for FY2018-FY203 six-year regional funding: ART Operations and Maintenance Facilities, Ballston-MU Metrorail Station West Entrance, Crystal City Metrorail Station East Entrance, and the Transitway extension to Pentagon City. The NVTA is expected to release its draft FY2018-FY2023 six-year regional program in April 2018. The public comment period for the draft FY2018-FY2023 six-year regional program will begin in April 2018 and end in May 2018. NVTA plans to hold an open house and public hearing on the draft FY2018-FY2023 six-year regional program in May 2018 and the NVTA is expected to adopt the FY2018-FY2023 program in June 2018.
- In a follow up to a question from the Committee, Tim Roseboom noted that the Pentagon City Tunnel is scheduled to open on Tuesday, February 20, 2018. The tunnel will be open from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm Monday – Friday; however, the tunnel will not be open during Federal holidays. Hours may be expanded at a later date.

WMATA FY2019 Budget Public Hearing Update – Tim Roseboom

- Tim Roseboom gave an overview of the WMATA FY2019 Budget Public Hearing which took place on January 31, 2018. The WMATA FY2019 budget does not include a fare increase nor any reduction in service. Approximately 50 individuals attended the public hearing with several comments noting that WMATA should move to a flat fare and WMATA needs additional funding. Phase I of Metrobus service improvements on Columbia Pike will need to be added to the budget. The WMATA Board is expected to adopt their FY2019 budget in March 2018.

ART Service Performance – William Jones

- William Jones provided a presentation on ART's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 second quarter performance. ART's total ridership for the second quarter of FY 2018 was 742,500, which was an 8.9% decrease in ridership over the same period in FY 2017. Second quarter ridership in comparison to FY2016 represents a 4% increase. Ridership in the first quarter of FY 2018 also reflected a decrease. Factors that may have contributed to decrease in ridership include during the first and second quarters of FY 2018 include: fare increase to \$2.00, passengers going back to rail after WMATA's SafeTrack program, increase in service on Metrorail's Blue Line, and increase in use of Transportation Network Companies. On-time performance for ART was 85.5% for the second quarter, which was 3.6% lower than the second quarter of FY 2017.
- For the second quarter of FY 2018, 24,205 passengers used STAR, which is a 6.5% decrease compared to FY 2017. STAR's on-time performance is currently measured only on trips provided by dedicated vehicles. The new STAR Call Center technology contract will measure on-time performance on taxis as well as dedicated vehicles and is expected to be implemented in spring 2018.
- Staff is currently working on providing an update on the Transit Development Plan to DRPT. In upcoming Committee meetings, staff will provide updates on proposed ART service recommendations including but not limited to recommendations for Columbia Pike, Crystal City, and Pentagon City corridors.
- Twelve new buses have been delivered funding through DRPT and through SMART SCALE. Staff have requested funding through DRPT to replace fourteen light-duty buses (ARBOCS) with fourteen heavy-duty transit buses which would be procured within FY 2019 and FY2020. Light-duty buses are not seen as feasible due to the growth of ART.
- There were an increased number of missed trips due to maintenance issues. Routes which are hit first are routes which have the least ridership as there is an attempt to impact the least passengers as possible if buses are not available for revenue service. The ART 92 get hits first in terms of a reduction in service as a result of buses not being available due to maintenance as the ART 92 does not carry many riders.
- At the next Committee meeting, staff will provide an update on the Service Evaluation Report and expects to issue the report out for public comment in late winter / early spring 2018. Staff will also provide a summary of FY 2019 proposed service changes to the Committee at next month's meeting. The goals for the Evaluation Report and FY 2019 proposed changes is to make ART more efficient and cost effective.

Report from Accessibility Subcommittee

- Alexa Mavroidis (via phone), noted that the last meeting was short; however, there was a discussion on bus kneeling, the new STAR map which dealt with the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile distance to a bus stop and was based on MetroAccess data. It was also noted that Red Top's implementation of iCabbi dispatch system was going well. ICabbi allows Red Top to assign trips via tablets in vehicles and via GPS. ICabbi is all cloud based and incorporates trips electronically and makes billing easier.

Additional Items from Committee Members and Staff

- Lynn Rivers noted that the County Manger plans to release the County's FY 2019 budget during the week of February 19, 2018.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2018.