



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2020

9:30 AM

Government Center, Conference Room 11

Board of Supervisors Members Present:

Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman
Penelope A. Gross, Mason District (Vice Chairman)
Walter L. Alcorn, Hunter Mill District (Committee Chairman)
Kathy L. Smith, Sully District (Committee Vice Chairman)
James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District
John W. Foust, Dranesville District
Rodney L. Lusk, Lee District
Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon District
Dalia A. Palchik, Providence District
Pat Herrity, Springfield District

Board Members Absent: None

County Leadership:

Bryan Hill, County Executive
Rachel Flynn, Deputy County Executive
Beth Teare, County Attorney

Link to agenda and presentation materials:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/board-supervisors-transportation-committee-meeting-dec-8-2020>

Committee Chairman Alcorn called the virtual meeting to order at 9:31 AM. Board members participated in the meeting from their respective district offices.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 10, 2020, meeting were accepted with no changes.

2. I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit/Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study

Jennifer DeBruhl, Chief of Public Transportation, and Ciara Williams, Northern Virginia Transit Planning Manager, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), briefed the Board on the I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit/TDM Study. The Governors of Virginia and

Maryland announced a Capital Beltway Accord to rebuild the American Legion Bridge and connect the interstate highway system via Express Lanes in Fall 2019. The study is funded and managed jointly by DRPT and the Maryland Department of Transportation Mass Transit Administration (MDOT MTA). The goals of the study are to develop and prioritize transit options and travel demand management strategies for bi-state travel across the bridge. The I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit/TDM Study is a separate project from Maryland's Managed Lanes Study and VDOT's I-495 NEXT Project. However, the projects are related. The I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit/TDM Study assesses transit needs and gaps, reviews travel markets between Virginia and Maryland, develops and tests transit routes and commuter assistance programs, and recommends potential transit/TDM improvements. Commonwealth Transportation Board consideration of the study and its recommendations is anticipated in January or February 2021.

Chairman McKay asked Ms. DeBruhl to clarify the relationship regarding the near-term, mid-term, and long-term initiatives of this study to VDOT's I-495 NEXT Project and Maryland's Managed Lanes Study. Ms. DeBruhl stated that the timeframe for the near-term scenario would occur prior to the opening of Maryland's Managed Lanes. DRPT is studying scenarios with and without transit services after the completion of I-495 NEXT, but prior to the completion of the American Legion Bridge as part of Maryland's Managed Lanes. The timeframe for the mid-term initiative would coincide with the opening of Maryland's Managed Lanes. The long-term initiative looks further out in the future. Ms. DeBruhl stated that DRPT is focusing more on the baseline and the mid-term scenarios to make recommendations to Virginia Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine. DRPT is working closely with VDOT and MDOT on this study. Chairman McKay stated that the dates on the timeline are unclear. He was concerned with the lack of public involvement and outreach effort for the study. He also noted that the County has expectations coming from the recommendations of this study regarding transit commitments for the I-495 NEXT Project. Ms. DeBruhl stated that DRPT is committed to working with the County on this effort.

Supervisor Foust stated that over the years, the consensus among transportation experts is that there will be no transit services between Montgomery and Fairfax Counties until the American Legion Bridge expansion is complete. He stated that it is impossible that the near-term scenario could offer transit service as indicated in the presentation. Ms. DeBruhl clarified that under the near-term scenario, DRPT is studying a list of improvements such as technology enhancements for TDM and commuter assistance programs. Supervisor Foust suggested that the study should examine transit routes that connect Virginia to Maryland, which means that the DRPT study would require cooperation with Maryland's Managed Lanes Study. Supervisor Foust asked for the specific amount of financial commitment that Virginia has dedicated to implementing this study's recommendations. Ms. DeBruhl stated that the Secretary has not committed to a specific amount, but DRPT is working through the investment packages to inform the Secretary's decision. They will announce the financial commitment after the completion of the process. Supervisor Foust then asked for the costs of operations for the proposed transit services. Ms. DeBruhl stated that the costs will be part of the study to be released in the next few weeks. Supervisor Foust asked about the number of Virginia residents who responded to the survey. Ms. Williams stated that the second survey will be completed by Friday, December 11, 2020. She will provide the results of both surveys to the Board.

Regarding the Board Action Item, Supervisor Foust stated that he does not think the I-495 NEXT Project should move forward without Maryland's commitment. Supervisor Palchik stated that more feedback from the community is needed. She was excited about the opportunities to be able to connect people from one jurisdiction to another. She felt that the proposed transit service is important in terms of travel time, economy, and employment for the region.

Committee Chair Alcorn asked if the reverse commute is part of the transit study. Ms. DeBruhl confirmed that reverse commutes are included in the scope of the study. She stated that destinations in Maryland are more diverse than major activity centers in the Tysons and Reston areas in Virginia.

Chairman McKay thanked Ms. DeBruhl for the work on the study. He stated that it is important to know what transit options are feasible now and planned for the future. He emphasized that it is important that the I-495 NEXT Project and this study are connected. He stated that the recommendations from this study will help the Board to evaluate the I-495 NEXT Project.

3. Reston and Tysons Managed Curbside Parking Study

Neil Freschman, Section Chief, and Henri Stein McCartney, Senior Transportation Planner, Capital Projects and Traffic Engineering Division, FCDOT, briefed the Committee on the managed curbside parking study for the Reston and Tysons areas. Fairfax County currently has a limited number of parking restrictions. The study is the first step toward future implementation of managed curbside parking, which could include limited duration parking, paid parking, and other restrictions. The study focuses on the Reston Transit Station Areas and the Tysons Urban Center. Benefits of managed curbside parking include supporting TDM goals and discouraging vehicle trips, promoting parking space turnover, and creating potential revenue streams for parking/transportation programs. The study includes short-term and medium-term recommendations. If the Board concurs with the draft recommendations, staff will return to the Board with proposed policies and ordinances within 12 months.

Committee Chair Alcorn stated that he supported moving forward with the study. He recommended that staff examine technologies that use automatic parking enforcement, instead of using the police department for this task. Regarding the private streets in Reston, he recommended creating a program to coordinate with private street owners for parking enforcement. He encouraged FCDOT to work closely with the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) to ensure the consistency of managed streets and future developments. Tom Biesiadny, FCDOT Director, stated that staff will incorporate the Board's comments into the study as it advances.

Supervisor Palchik stated that she supported advancing the study and inquired how Arlington and Washington, D.C. programs are performing, and how the County compares to them regarding the topic. She stated that the goals should be improving the parking situation for the communities and businesses to be successful and not income generation or the enforcement issues. Ms. McCartney replied that she and the study team have been communicating with the staff from Arlington and the District of Columbia (D.C.). She said that the environments in Arlington County and D.C. are different from Fairfax County. They have been collaborating with Arlington County staff to receive feedback on their program that could be useful for Fairfax

County. She stated that staff has not studied D.C. parking program, but she will ask D.C. staff to share their experiences.

Committee Chair Alcorn recommended that staff discuss the lessons learned from Rosslyn, Ballston, and Crystal City with Arlington staff to see if their experiences could be beneficial to the County. Supervisor Walkinshaw stated he believed that parking enforcement should not be handled by the police department, because of the costs involved. He recommended studying a different model for parking enforcement for the study areas and countywide.

Chairman McKay recommended that staff coordinate with the Office of the County Attorney (OCA) to ensure that the County meets all Virginia Codes requirements. Supervisor Palchik stated that communication among the departments is important to ensure that the County has proper authority regarding parking restrictions and enforcement. Supervisor Herrity reminded the Committee about the negative impact of paid parking on retail and hospitality industries in Reston. He supported a single-payer system and a separate enforcement entity from the police department. The police department still retains the ability to enforce parking violations, but they should not be the primary enforcement agency. He stressed the impact of paid parking on retail and hospitality communities.

4. Silver Line Phase 2 Bus Service Plan Recommendation

Michael Felschow, Section Chief, Transit Services Division, and Hejun Kang, Senior Transportation Planner, FCDOT, briefed the Committee on the bus service plan recommendations for the Connector to support Phase 2 of the Silver Line. The recommendations were derived from a series of public outreach meetings and surveys. The responses indicated that additional service improvements are needed. Staff evaluated alternative scenarios and made recommendations based on multiple factors including ability to serve transit dependent populations, improve access to key activity and employment centers, improve travel times and frequencies, and increase operating hours. The final recommendations will be submitted for Board consideration in March 2021.

Supervisor Foust commended staff for an excellent presentation. He asked staff to confirm that no new resources are used in the recommendation. Mr. Felschow confirmed that they are using existing resources to make service plan recommendations. Supervisor Foust asked if the recommendations have any modification from the last public meeting. Mr. Felschow responded that there were some adjustments based on the public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. The next Board Transportation Committee is scheduled for January 12, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.