Streetcar Program Shutdown and Post-Streetcar Planning

County Manager’s Progress Update #2

March 17, 2015
Progress Since January Update

• Contract/funding closeout
  – Remaining work products received from streetcar program management contractor
  – Funding agreements to be closed out in March

• Community outreach/communication
  – Project webpage created
  – Outreach underway

• Near-term transit service enhancements
  – Included in County Manager’s proposed budget

• Inventory of County plans that included streetcar
Objective: Communicate broadly, regularly about County efforts to support these corridors and develop a transit alternative

- “Moving Forward After Streetcar” webpage for progress updates
  - Residents can sign-up for transportation email updates
- Key messages for staff to use in County outreach efforts and other engagement opportunities
- Conversations with business community to address issues such as economic competitiveness
  - Chairman’s Quarterly Breakfast Meetings
County continues to invest in Columbia Pike and Crystal City-Pentagon City corridors

– More than $200 million in transportation infrastructure planned for combined corridors during next 6 years:

  • **Columbia Pike**: Utility undergrounding and streetscape improvements, transit stations
  • **Crystal City-Pentagon City**: Transitway, multimodal center, complete streets, Metro station access improvements

– Staff recommendation: Hire a program management team to assist in the execution of the infrastructure program

  • Goals – improve project coordination, maximize efficiencies, minimize construction impacts
Columbia Pike Projects

Multimodal Street Design and Utility Undergrounding

Typical Street Utility Cross-Section
Columbia Pike Projects

Transit Stations
Crystal City-Pentagon City Projects

Street Projects

Legend
- Complete Project
- Construction Stage
- Design/Planning Stage
- Future Project

Map prepared by DRS Mapping Center
Washington, DC
Arlington, VA

Note: This map is accurate as of the date of publication. Refer to the Arlington County Department of Planning and 곑evelopment for the most current information, and contact the developer(s) or property owner(s) for all property-specific information.
Current Levels of Bus Service

• Columbia Pike
  – Nearly 600 bus trips carry more than 17,000 passengers each weekday
  – Buses every 2-3 minutes in rush hour

• Crystal City
  – During rush hour, buses every 6 minutes between Crystal City Metro station and South Glebe Road
  – Buses every 12 minutes during daytime off-peak hours and every 15 minutes in the evening
Near-Term Service Enhancements

• Several enhancements to Arlington Transit (ART) service proposed in FY 2016 Budget
  – These would improve service along both corridors during weekends and peak weekday hours, starting in summer 2015
    • ART 41 (Columbia Pike/Ballston/Courthouse) – Add bus on weekend afternoons to relieve crowding and improve on-time performance
    • ART 42 (Ballston/Columbia Pike/Pentagon) – Improve Saturday service to every 35 minutes until 8 p.m. and redirect Saturday service to Pentagon City Metro
    • ART 43 (Crystal City/Rosslyn/Courthouse) – Increase frequency of weekday peak period service from 20 to 13 minutes to alleviate overcrowding
    • ART 45 (Columbia Pike/DHS/Sequoia/Rosslyn) – Increase frequency of peak period service from 30 to 22 minutes
  Estimated net cost (after passenger fares) = $140,000 for FY 2016
  – Additional enhancements being developed for Board consideration
At least 8 County plans reference "streetcar" and may need updating with another transit alternative

- Columbia Pike and Crystal City transit analysis will be part of FY 2017-2026 Transit Development Plan (TDP) update
- Sector and area plans with physical planning or development potential implications will be updated once TDP is complete; could include:
  - *Crystal City Sector Plan*
  - *Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Area Plan*
  - *Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Form Based Code*
- Need to determine how to best address Comprehensive Plan elements and other policy documents that include "streetcar"
Timeline for Plan Updates

2015

1st Quarter
2nd Quarter
3rd Quarter
4th Quarter

Transit Development Plan Update (Countywide)

2016

1st Quarter
2nd Quarter
3rd Quarter
4th Quarter

Capital Improvement Plan Update (Countywide)

2017

1st Quarter
2nd Quarter
3rd Quarter
4th Quarter

Sector/Area Plan Updates (Crystal City and Columbia Pike Corridors)

Amendments to Pertinent Comprehensive Plan Elements (Countywide)
County will undertake major update of TDP this year

- Enables strategies for Columbia Pike and Crystal City-Pentagon City corridors to be coordinated with transit improvements in other parts of the County
- Ensures improvements are eligible for State funding
- Will inform other County plan updates
- Submission to Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation required by spring 2016
Critical Issues to Address

• Enhanced bus alternatives previously studied (in Columbia Pike AA/EA) were conceptual
  – Developed before adoption of Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Plan, before new developments approved in Pentagon City
  – Not integrated with transit planning work in Crystal City-Potomac Yard corridor

• Assumptions for these concepts need to be evaluated:
  – Lack of bus storage and maintenance facility space
  – Cost of WMATA service
  – Coordination with partner jurisdictions
    • WMATA, Fairfax County, City of Alexandria
  – Other supporting improvements
    • Roadway
    • Bus provisions – Pentagon City & Crystal City
    • Off-vehicle fare provision
Development of the TDP will involve:

- System-wide analysis of bus service
- Detailed review of Columbia Pike and Crystal City-Pentagon City corridors
- ‘Cost Affordable’ 10-year plan for new services and supporting capital improvements
- Will outline additional efforts needed to refine and implement transit strategies

After TDP adopted, will undertake detailed planning and engineering work to implement transit solutions
As service and capital projects are developed through the TDP, funding applications will be submitted.
## Public Input

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Public Input Opportunity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2015</td>
<td>Outreach with residents, riders and stakeholders on transit needs (part of TDP process)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
<td>Requesting public input on potential transit improvements (part of TDP process)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2015/2016</td>
<td>Development of County’s next Capital Improvement Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Public comments at Board meetings</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Outreach to commissions/committees</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring/Summer 2016</td>
<td>Begin update of sector and neighborhood plans following TDP adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Will include outreach and public engagement</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
May Deliverables

- More details on Transit Development Plan process
- Strategy for updating remaining County plans
- Recommendations for improving civic engagement on County initiatives
Questions?