

**Arlington Transit Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**May 8, 2018**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Ellen M. Bozman Government Center**  
**2100 Clarendon Boulevard**  
**“Cherry” and “Dogwood” Conference Room**

**TAC Members Present:**

John Carten  
Andrew McAllister  
Conor Courtney  
Carlota Cobo  
Richard Price  
Herschel Kanter  
Harvey Berlin  
Linda Massaro  
Erika Chiang  
Alexa Mavroidis  
James Davenport

**Other Attendees Present:**

Lynn Rivers (staff)  
William Jones (staff)  
Tim Roseboom (staff)  
Rich Roisman (staff)  
Andre Stafford (WMATA)  
Doris Ray

**Call to Order**

- John Carten opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

**Introductions**

- Doris Ray introduced herself as a member of the Disability Advisory Committee and staff at the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV).

**Public Comment**

- Doris Ray thanks the TAC and the WMATA Accessibility Advisory Committee and stated her concerns with Red Top’s new structure for reservations. She said she experienced problems when the call center is closed and asked the County to look into the situation and make corrections. She also indicated that she had heard stories of people waiting for an hour on Sundays for a wheelchair accessible cab. Lynn Rivers responded STAR was as surprised as the riders when they found out Red Top was moving its office and call center. She said the County is working with the owners. Herschel Kanter indicated that the call center had moved at the last TAC meeting. Andrew McAllister stated that Red Top had a new COO who was very gung ho about technology but thought he wasn’t taking the issue of

reservations very seriously. He also indicated that he didn't seem concerned with losing drivers familiar with the area.

### **Approval of Meeting Notes from March 13, 2018**

- March 13, 2018 meeting notes were approved unanimously. Motion by Hershel Kanter. Seconded by Andrew McAllister. Richard Price abstained.

### **Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Six Year Program Update – Rich Roisman**

- Rich Roisman of Transportation Planning presented on NVTA's Six Year Program. The background information said that NVTA was created by the General Assembly in 2013 by House Bill (HB) 2313. Cities and counties in Northern Virginia are represented. It's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) TransAction prioritizes and funds regional projects through a congestion/cost benefit mechanism. It is funded by a sales tax, grantor/s tax, and transient occupancy tax (on hotel stays). Revenue is split 70/30 between a competitive grant program and local money that can be used for any transportation purpose. Prior to 2018, the three revenue streams generated \$330 million which were reduced by \$75 million in the General Assembly session.
- John Carten asked the percentage reduction. Rich Roisman indicated that 79 multimodal projects were submitted and public comment was taken on 60 recommended for funding. WMATA pulled two projects. Revenue estimate for the six years was reduced from \$2.5 billion to \$1.5 billion with \$1.28 billion in PAYGO anticipated. He said the public comment period closes on May 20 and a public hearing was Thursday, May 10 in Merrifield. Arlington has five projects totaling \$254 million in requests: ART operations and maintenance facility, Ballston west entrance, Crystal City east entrance, Pentagon City transitway, and ITS and signal upgrades on three corridors.
- John Carten asked for more detail on the last project. Rich Roisman responded that it included Transit Signal Priority (TSP), adaptive signals, cameras, and count stations.
- John Carten asked for the value of each individual project request. Rich Roisman responded that Ballston is \$72.3 million, ITS corridors is \$10 million, Crystal City is \$87 million, Pentagon City is \$28.5 million, and ART facility is \$55 million.
- Harvey Berlin asked of the TAC needed to approve anything. Rich Roisman responded no.
- Alexa Mavroidis reported that a Washington Boulevard pedestrian crossing button was damaged near where she lived. William Jones responded that the County would look into it.
- Andrew McAllister asked if there was a project ranking. Rich Roisman responded that the ART facility was the County's highest and Crystal City was second. Lynn Rivers stated that all the projects are important. Andrew McAllister then asked if the projects could be funded in phases. Rich Roisman responded yes and offered that all the projects combine other sources of funding such as state, federal, and other sources.
- James Davenport asked for a description of the dedicated Metro funding coming from NVTA. Rich Roisman offered to forward a presentation describing.
- John Carten asked about the Potomac Yard Metro cost increasing.

- Alexa Mavroidis asked if the Pentagon City transitway would be accessible. Lynn Rivers responded yes and also offered that a new elevator is being constructed on the mall side.
- John Carten asked the timeline and next steps. Rich Roisman responded that the plan is expected to be adopted at the June NVTA meeting.
- Connor Courtney asked about Sunday service improvements. William Jones responded that all TDP improvements are on hold and that if any are made it would be schedule changes to help OTP.

### **WMATA/General Assembly Update – Staff**

- Tim Roseboom discussed the Metro dedicated funding legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2018. He distributed an NVTC summary of the legislation. Lynn Rivers mentioned that NVTC is having a retreat on June 22 to discuss its role in WMATA governance. She also offered that Metrobus is experiencing an 8% ridership decrease compared to the previous year. Andre Stafford described service changes taking effect on Columbia Pike on June 24 as well as Sunday increases to the 4A/B and the 22A serving Pentagon City in the off peak. Linda Massaro asked about the Blue and Yellow line station closures during summer 2019. Tim Roseboom distributed a schedule of Phases I-IV of the work.

### **Report from Accessibility Subcommittee**

- Alexa Mavroidis noted STAR rider concerns about Red Top. She talked about a patron who had a Kennedy Center pickup scheduled for 11 PM and had to wait two hours for an accessible vehicle. She stated that Diamond has been fine but Red Top has had terrible service since changing ownership. They are having trouble getting wheelchair accessible cabs assigned and it a major issue for people who can't get text messages or have mobile phones to call them.
- John Carten asked if the County has performance measures for Red Top. William Jones responded that the staff is looking at that. He added that he thinks the local staff want to do the right thing but are not backed by ownership. He reinforced the importance of STAR and said the County was looking at dedicating vehicles to STAR and local lines to address calls. Red Top has lost independent contractors including wheelchair accessible vehicles because of changeover.
- Richard Price mentioned that the Transportation Commission looks at cab licensing every year and was concerned that County policies could be hurting the company. William Jones responded that it would be helpful to require more wheelchair accessible cabs. Richard Price stated he thought the County should be taxing Transit Network Companies (TNCs).
- Doris Ray mentioned a WMATA pilot program in Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties that offered same day service not 24-hour advance reservations.
- Alexis Mavroidis asked Lynn Rivers if she thought that was realistic and feasible to ask Red Top. Lynn Rivers responded yes.

### **Additional Items from Committee Members and Staff**

- James Davenport described a street light and LED walking tour that he had taken on Saturday, May 5 near Route 50 and Washington Boulevard.
- John Carten asked about a TAC bus tour in July. Lynn Rivers responded that is typically what the TAC does in the summer and would like to if it can get planned.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2018 with a special start time of 6:30 PM.