

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Chair Phyllis J. Randall and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: September 11, 2023

SUBJECT: Approval of Letter of Endorsement for the City of Alexandria's Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program Application

1. **Purpose:** To seek the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) approval of the letter of endorsement request for the City of Alexandria's Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program Application.
2. **Suggested Motion:** *I move Authority approval of the Letter of Endorsement for City of Alexandria's Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program Application.*
3. **Background:** As is customary among NVTA partnerships, requests for Authority endorsement are received from jurisdictions and regional agencies embraced by the Authority. To help fund transportation projects, jurisdictions and regional agencies pursue sources of funding through federal, state, and regional programs and grants. Per the Code of Virginia, NVTA serves as an advocate for the transportation needs of Northern Virginia before the state and federal government. NVTA has received a request for endorsement from the City of Alexandria on their application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program.
 - **USDOT's TOD Planning Program**
[The Pilot Program for TOD Planning](#) provides funding to communities to integrate land use and transportation planning for a new fixed guideway or core capacity transit project corridor through a comprehensive or site-specific planning study. Planning studies funded through this program examine ways to develop affordable housing near transit, improve economic development and ridership potential, foster multimodal connectivity and accessibility, improve transit access for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, engage the private sector, identify infrastructure needs, and enable mixed-use development near transit stations. The application deadline is on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.
4. **Planning Study Under the City of Alexandria's TOD Planning Grant Program Application**
The City of Alexandria will utilize funds from the TOD Planning Grant Program to support the Duke Street Corridor Plan. In June 2023, the city approved a concept design for the future Duke Street Transitway and approved the FY2024-2025 Long-Range Planning Work

Program which identified the Duke Street Corridor Plan as the next comprehensive land use plan the city will undertake. The Duke Street Corridor Plan will integrate recommendations from planning for the Duke Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor and will comprehensively analyze and update land use for the areas adjacent to the planned transit corridor. This update will reflect the city's current priorities related to housing affordability, equity, sustainability, and more.

NVTA has invested \$87 million toward the [Duke Street Transitway project](#) through the FY2018-2023 and FY2020-2025 Six Year Programs. Additionally, NVTA has fully funded the completed [Duke Street Transit Signal Priority Installation project](#) in the same corridor through the FY2015-2016 Funding Program. The funding the city would receive if awarded this grant would be beneficial to and complementary with NVTA's investments in the Duke Street corridor.

Attachments:

- A. City of Alexandria's Request for Endorsement Letter
- B. Draft Letter of Endorsement for the City of Alexandria's TOD Planning Grant Program Application



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September 7, 2023

Monica Backmon, Executive Director
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)
3040 Williams Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031

RE: Request for Endorsement of City of Alexandria Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program application for Support of Duke Street Corridor Plan

Dear Ms. Backmon,

I am writing to request NVTA's endorsement for the City of Alexandria's 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program application. The City is a leader in integrating land use and transportation planning to advance and expand equitable transportation access as exemplified by the 2009 North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan and implementation framework that led to the May 2023 opening of the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station in partnership with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

In June 2023, City Council approved a concept design for the future Duke Street Transitway. That same month, the City approved the FY 2024-2025 Long-Range Planning Work Program, identifying the Duke Street Corridor Plan as the next comprehensive land use plan the City will undertake, scheduled to begin mid-2024. The Duke Street Corridor Plan will integrate recommendations from the recently completed planning for the Duke Street bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor. In addition, the Plan will comprehensively analyze and update land use for the areas adjacent to the planned transit corridor to reflect current City priorities related to housing affordability, equity, open space, sustainability, and mobility, while integrating transit-oriented development principles such as walkability, variety of uses, and transit-supportive density, among others.

Over the years NVTA and the City of Alexandria have successfully partnered on various transportation projects. Your continued support on behalf of the City will leverage our long partnership as well as resources already committed by NVTA for design and implementation of BRT in this corridor. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the City of Alexandria's grant application. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 703-746-3853.

Sincerely,

Nancy Williams
Assistant Director
Department of Planning and Zoning



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

September 14, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: NVTA Endorsement of the City of Alexandria's Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program Application.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), I am pleased to express our full support for the City of Alexandria's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program application. Funding from this grant program will be utilized to support the city's next comprehensive land use plan undertaking the Duke Street Corridor Plan. The Duke Street Corridor Plan will comprehensively analyze and update land use for the areas adjacent to the planned transit corridor to reflect the city's current priorities related to housing affordability, equity, sustainability, and mobility. NVTA fully supports the Duke Street Corridor Plan as it aligns with NVTA's Core Values of Equity and Sustainability and advances NVTA's goals of improving mobility, accessibility, and resiliency across all modes of transportation.

Since 2015, NVTA has partnered with the City of Alexandria and made significant investments in the Duke Street Corridor. NVTA invested \$87 million toward the Duke Street Transitway project which will provide dedicated transit lanes on Duke Street for Bus Rapid Transit. The recently completed planning of this project will be integrated into the Duke Street Corridor Plan. Additionally, NVTA fully funded the completed Duke Street Transit Signal Priority Installation project that installed and implemented a transit vehicle signal priority system on Duke Street. Federal funding will significantly aid in the City of Alexandria's ability to advance the Duke Street Corridor Plan and be complementary with NVTA's continued investments in the Duke Street corridor.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Alexandria's TOD Planning Grant Program application as well as your time and attention.

Best Regards,

Phyllis J. Randall
Chair

Cc: Nancy Williams, Assistant Director, Department of Planning and Zoning, City of Alexandria
Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer, NVTA