



City of Annapolis

Planning Commission
Department of Planning & Zoning
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February 4, 2022

To: Annapolis City Council

From: Planning Commission

Re: Findings for Ordinance O-40-21 (ZTA2021-015): Proposed Amendment to the Capital Improvement Program (FY2023 – FY2027)

SUMMARY

This ordinance proposes an amendment to the FY2022-2027 Capital Improvement program in order to add the 100% Electric Annapolis Mobility Plan to include electric vehicles, boat and associated support infrastructure to the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Commission held a virtual pg. 1pg. 1public hearing on the legislation on January 6, 2021. Mayor Gavin Buckley and City Manager David Jarrell addressed the Commission, and introduced the City's plan to electrify the City's internal transportation system. The plan for the period of time while the Hillman Garage is under construction is called the 100% Electric Mobility Plan. It includes electrifying the Circulator and increasing its routes. Because it does short routes, the electric Circulator can serve the public all day without the need to recharge. Second, the proposal for electric golf cart trolleys to service secondary roads. Their proposal is to use the Eastport Shopping Center for parking, and transport riders to Fifth Street, seen as a potential transportation hub. At Fifth Street, riders could board the City's first 100% electrified ferry. The ferry route would be Fifth Street to Prince George Street and back. A second set of parking assets is the City Marina. Federal funding is anticipated. The plan can be implemented in 2022. Partnerships are being formed with State and County bodies as well as with BGE.

Mr. Jarrell explained that this plan includes an amendment to the current Capital Improvement Program necessary at this time because the electric boat is a long lead time acquisition of approximately 18 months. The City has \$100,000 currently for planning, conceptual design cost estimating and \$330,000 to begin acquisition and infrastructure. Some improvements will be required to the Fifth Street dock. In FY 2023, the purchase of the small electric carts and the electric circulator are anticipated. FY 2024 costs will be defined as engineering and design move forward.

The Commissioners asked questions, and the following was clarified: The goal is to receive federal and state grants to cover 100% of the costs to the City. Mayor Buckley outlined the state, county and federal grant funding opportunities. The possibility of hiring a contractor to operate the ferry has been raised and discussions are underway. The ferry would be free to the public. The electric carts that the City plans to purchase can be winterized for use year round.

On January and May 20, 2021, the Planning Commission held public hearings on O-40-21 and subsequently moved to recommend that the City Council adopt the FY2023-2027 Capital Improvement Program. The Planning Commission adds two additional recommendations:

1. All new traffic lights be capable of synchronization, either locally, regionally, or both
2. The Department of Public Works study Church Circle as a light-less traffic circle before committing funds to new construction.

The public hearing was continued to January 20, 2022 to allow for comments from the public who had viewed the January 6th meeting, At the January 20th meeting, no additional public comments had been received.

Ms. Butler reported that she had viewed the presentation from January 6, 2022 and referred to the Eastport Civic Association (ECA) 2018 Parking Report as it relates to this ordinance and the renovation of Hillman Garage. She commented that Eastport will be undergoing several major utility projects with the installation of gas lines and water mains, burial of electric lines, and sidewalk replacement. The increased presence of delivery trucks on residential streets has also had an impact on travel throughout Eastport. The ECA has formed a task force to work with the City on these issues and other new ideas.

Mr. Waldman moved to recommend approval of the ordinance. The motion was seconded by **Chair** Sale. Ms. Butler added the recommendation that City staff meet with the Eastport Civic Association's Task Force to address parking concerns before implementation of the mobility plan. The motion passed 4-0. Mr. Pline abstained.

Approved and submitted on behalf of the Planning Commission

Ben Sale, Chair

Robert Waldman, Vice-chair

David Iams, Member

Alex Pline, Member

Diane Butler, Member