



ARLINGTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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February 8, 2012

Ms. Mary Hynes, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Proposed parking rate increase for the Ballston Public Parking Garage

Dear Chair Hynes:

I am writing to express the views of the Transportation Commission concerning the County Manager's recommendation to amend the parking rate structure for the Ballston Public Parking Garage effective May 1, 2012, and authorize implementation of a new rate structure.

The Transportation Commission, by a vote of 9-0, approved a motion to recommend that the County Board approve the County Manager's recommendation to amend the rate structure for the Ballston Public Parking Garage and authorize the implementation of the Manger's proposed rate structure (as set out in the Manager's memorandum of January 26, 2012).

The Commission heard this item at its meeting on January 26, 2012. The Commission received a presentation from County staff. There were no public speakers. Present and voting at the meeting were Commissioners Gearhart, Areizaga-Soto, Armbruster, Everline, Grant, Hubbard, Lynott, Ortiz, and Slatt.

In discussion, Commissioners noted that this would be the first increase in hourly parking rates in the Ballston Garage since 1994 and the first increase in monthly rates since 1996; that parking rates in nearby garages have increased during that time and that the proposed changes would bring the parking rates for the Ballston Garage more into conformity with rates in those garages; and that there was a need to continue to fund the bonds supporting the garage and also pay for forthcoming improvements to the garage.

Commissioners also noted that several new office buildings close to the garage will open in the near future, including the DARPA building, and that these new buildings will likely create additional demand for parking spaces in the garage and offset any loss of customers due to the higher rates. Finally, Commissioners noted that the continuation of below-market short-term and evening rates should continue to encourage customers to visit the mall and to use the garage as opposed to on-street parking.

I would be glad to answer any questions (703-522-2276).

Sincerely,

Bill Gearhart
Chairman