



Alexandria Taxpayers United

July 20, 2007

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your request for public comment on proposed new taxes to pay for transportation spending. Alexandria Taxpayers United has the following initial comments regarding the new taxes as listed below:

1. **Business Improvement District (BID).** There was an attempt to impose a BID Tax in the heart of Old Town Alexandria in 2005, essentially along King Street and the surrounding streets. It caused a great deal of controversy and was withdrawn before the proposed City Council Vote due to a large outcry among local businesses and residents. In fact, it was the BID controversy that led to the creation of our organization. We would strongly oppose any reviving of a BID tax plan. If the City puts a priority on transportation spending, they should cut spending in other areas to making room for the funding of this proposal.

3. **Tax Increment Public Infrastructure Fund.** This is just a back-door attempt to hike tax bills. As land values go up, the tax rate should be cut so that overall bill levels stay the same (we're willing to concede to an increase equal to the percentage of population growth plus inflation).

4. **Impact fees.** We're not comfortable with this concept as we believe the costs will ultimately be passed onto the consumers.

5. **Motor Vehicle Registration Fee.** This is a regressive tax that would hit low income families the hardest. Additionally, the City Council just raised registration fees by \$10 in the last budget cycle, and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority just increased "safety registration" fees by \$10. Increasing registration fees by 300 percent over the course of one year isn't "modest."

6. **Commercial Real Estate Property Tax.** We oppose any proposal to increase the Commercial Real Estate Property Tax. These costs will hurt small businesses, increase the cost of doing business in Alexandria, and be passed onto consumers--making Alexandria a more expensive place to live.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bud Miller  
Alexandria Taxpayers United  
[www.atuonline.org](http://www.atuonline.org)