



**NATIONAL
LANDING**

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

August 13, 2021

Mr. Jason Widstrom
Arlington County
Department of Environmental Services
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 710
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Widstrom,

On behalf of the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) and the collective business communities of Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard, I am writing to provide feedback following Arlington County's kick-off meeting on the Crystal City to Washington National Airport (CC2DCA) Multimodal Connector held on Thursday, July 15th. The BID supports this new connection that will serve an important "Purpose and Need" by meeting existing and future travel demand, not just between National Landing and DCA, but also to points throughout the entire region using a variety of mobility modes.

In 2010, the Arlington County Board approved the Crystal City Sector Plan, an effort borne out of a need to preserve Crystal City as an important economic engine for the County and the Commonwealth. To support the planned growth, the Plan was accompanied by a series of multimodal transportation investments aimed at not just supporting growth but doing so in a manner that minimizes traffic and improving quality of life.

Following the release of the Sector Plan, a multitude of rail and airport investments – Long Bridge, Atlantic Gateway, and Project Journey- were proposed that would have a direct impact on National Landing. Seeing an opportunity, the BID released the "CC2DCA Feasibility Study" in 2018 that envisioned an iconic new connection that would leverage these multi-billion-dollar investments and advance the Crystal City Sector Plan goal to "*Enhance Multimodal Access and Connectivity*" by "*providing better connections to Reagan National Airport and the surrounding regional transportation network.*" (Crystal City Sector Plan, Page 26).

Already, the prospect of this new connection has stimulated major discussions of through-running MARC trains and future Amtrak service making for the system's closest rail station to a major airport in the entire country.

To fully realize this purpose and need, however, CC2DCA must provide direct, convenient, and legible access to key mobility assets. Specifically, CC2DCA must directly connect the soon to open security check points at Terminals B & C, which will serve as DCA's new "front door," as well as the planned VRE rail station, which is expected to serve VRE, Amtrak and MARC in the future. A truly multimodal connection must also link directly to the Washington National Airport Metro providing the most proximate and convenient access to the Metro system for existing and new riders of the envisioned commuter and regional rail network. Providing a connection to the Mount Vernon trail will ensure that CC2DCA services the growing demand for bicycle, e-bicycle, and micromobility users. Finally, along Crystal Drive,

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CC2DCA must have a strong presence and logically connect to both Metroway and the area's on-street bicycle network.

Further, to maximize utilization, CC2DCA must be designed as an iconic, new landmark in the National Landing landscape. Rather than ignoring the presence of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, this investment can be an extension of it. The connection's design can celebrate and embrace the Parkway through context-sensitive architecture, incorporation of biophilia, public art, and people-centered design making CC2DCA an open space destination of its own.

CC2DCA will be an important investment in multimodal transportation for the National Landing Downtown. The new connection will not only reduce traffic in and around National Landing by displacing existing auto trips, but also stimulate new demand by catalyzing the type of growth best served by such investments. We look forward to continuing discussions around the project's Purpose and Need as well as proposed alternatives as the NEPA process continues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Gabriel".

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel
President & Executive Director