



THE PEOPLE BEFORE  
CARS COALITION  
UNITES LOCAL  
STAKEHOLDERS  
AROUND SHARED  
PRIORITIES TO  
CREATE A SAFER AND  
MORE ACCESSIBLE  
TRANSPORTATION  
NETWORK ACROSS  
NATIONAL LANDING.

January 18, 2023

**Superintendent**

Attn: GWMP South and MVT Plan/EA  
700 George Washington Mem Parkway  
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Superintendent,

The People Before Cars Coalition (PBC) is thrilled to provide input and support to NPS's Mount Vernon Trail improvement project for the southern portion of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The Coalition is a partnership of area business and advocacy organizations united by shared priorities to foster a safer and more accessible transportation network. We champion best practices in people-centered mobility, urban design, and planning within National Landing's three neighborhoods of Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yard.

The Coalition highlights Arlington County's Vision Zero Action Plan Goals as an objective to consider during this project, specifically, the commitments "to ensure safe transportation, no matter how you get around" and to "put safety first on County projects and policies - big or small". While this is not a County-led project, we endorse this approach. We recommend NPS prioritize the safety of trail users and non-motorized visitors at every intersection. The Coalition suggests implementing a series of safety improvements throughout the trail, including raised crosswalks, installing leading speed bumps for approaching cars where applicable, rerouting the trail to improve sightlines and crossing angles, and minimizing crossing distances through roadway narrowing. This is particularly critical where the airport ramps cross the trail or where the trail runs close to the parkway. Additionally, we suggest using protective barriers and other safety measures to prevent conflicts with vehicles.

We strongly encourage NPS to improve MVP trail conditions as it relates to stormwater management. Ensuring all proposed bridge and boardwalk designs address water-related impacts for all users is an important priority for the Coalition. Design solutions such as raising the trail or rerouting the alignment are preferred design solutions to address this issue.

Lastly, we recommend improving wayfinding and connectivity along the entire trail. This should include emergency contact information, mile markers, maps, and interpretation placards. Dark sky-friendly outdoor lighting should also be considered. As a major destination and scenic transportation corridor, the trail should be easy to navigate by all users. Ensuring safe and easy connections to the surrounding neighborhoods should be prioritized, especially any crossings of the George Washington Memorial Parkway like Four Mile Run, National Airport, Crystal City, and the proposed CC2DCA Connector.

We look forward to the next step in the environmental assessment process.

Sincerely,

The People Before Cars Coalition

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