

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

May 17, 2023

Kate Mattice
Executive Director
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
2300 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 230
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: PBC Letter of Support re VRE Crystal City Station Grant Application

Dear Director Mattice,

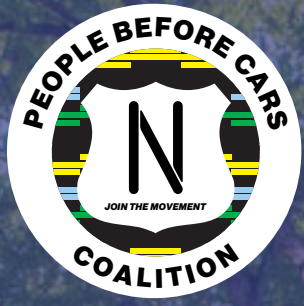
The People Before Cars Coalition, is writing to express its full support for the Virginia Rail Express' (VRE) application to the Commuter Choice grant program for its Crystal City Station project. The project is critical to National Landing's future as a walkable, transit-oriented downtown and we encourage the NVTC to approve the grant request.

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, engaging to support projects like the Arlington Memorial Trail.

VRE has long been an important part of National Landing's transportation landscape, helping thousands of employees from Northern Virginia's suburbs reach jobs and other destinations in the neighborhood. Prior to the pandemic, VRE's Crystal City Station was its busiest in Virginia. VRE is currently advancing plans for a new Crystal City Station that would replace its existing facility and provide additional capacity. That capacity is needed to accommodate the 75% increase in service planned as part of the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative, including new bi-directional, night and weekend service.

In addition to accommodating the planned increase in VRE service, Crystal City Station will serve as the keystone for a larger set of projects that will enhance regional mobility and generate economic development. The station will include a dedicated platform for Amtrak, which plans to establish service to National Landing. It will also accommodate MARC trains which, under a recently announced framework agreement between Maryland and Virginia, would "run through" to National Landing and Alexandria from their current terminus at Union Station. Finally, Crystal City Station is set to serve as the western "landing" of the planned CC2DCA pedestrian bridge to Reagan National Airport. Together, these projects will create the nation's leading multi-modal, air-to-rail hub and create a significant competitive advantage for National Landing and Northern Virginia.





More broadly, Crystal City Station and related projects are part of a concerted strategy to generate economic development by concentrating jobs and housing in transit-oriented locations like National Landing. Indeed, there is currently more than \$4B of investment planned or underway in transportation improvements within National Landing to support this strategy. VRE has already secured the majority of the expected \$68.9M cost for the station project, with the \$18.78M request representing the remaining delta. Thus, by approving this request the NVTC has the opportunity to leverage existing funds and finalize this important regional project. For these reasons we strongly support the project and encourage the NVTC to approve VRE's grant funding request.

Sincerely,

The People Before Cars Coalition
(National Landing BID, JBG SMITH, Arlington Families for Safe Streets, Sustainable Mobility for Arlington, Washington Area Bicyclists Association, Coalition for Smarter Growth)



NATIONAL
LANDING

