



**NATIONAL
LANDING**

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

May 20, 2022

Mr. Dan Reinhard, P.E.
Virginia Department of Transportation
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Mr. Reinhard:

On behalf of the Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard business community, the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) would like to reiterate its support of the comments outlined in the People Before Cars Coalition letter. In addition, the BID offers the following comments following the Virginia Department of Transportation's April 28th, 2022 kick-off meeting for Phase 2 of the Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Study.

Though much of the focus of the meeting centered on concepts for a grade separated pedestrian and bicycle facility on 18th Street, the BID would like to highlight that this project will deliver improved safety and enhanced connectivity at each of the subject intersections including 23rd, 20th, 15th and 18th Street. Though 18th Street is grade separated today, it does not offer ideal conditions for pedestrian comfort nor a bicycle facility safe for all users.

Provided that the Route 1 Boulevard Improvements are implemented with a strict focus on pedestrian orientation, vision zero principles and incorporation of many of the operational characteristics and design features previously outlined in BID comments and letters, the intersection delivered at 18th Street South will be safe and comfortable to cross for all pedestrians and cyclists. In this instance, the BID believes that a separate, grade separated crossing will not be required or frequently used by the vast majority of users and even has the potential to create an undesirable pedestrian environment along 18th Street South.

Given these considerations, the BID encourages additional consideration be given to the utilization of existing grade separation provided by tunnel linking the Crystal City Marriott to the west with the Crystal City Shops to the east. Leveraging and enhancing this existing connection offers an attractive alternative that could achieve other community goals to add activation and vibrancy to the Crystal City Underground identified in the Crystal City Sector Plan.

The BID also supports the proposed improvements to the 23rd Street intersection that adopt the right-of-way configuration recommended by VDOT during phase 1 for portions of Route 1 between 20th and 15th Street. The BID prefers Option #2's inclusion of bicycle facilities, but encourages VDOT to coordinate closely with Arlington County to deliver a protected facility. Adding physical protection for an east-west facility along this stretch of 23rd Street will ensure a seamless, protected facility connecting Crystal Drive to the north-south protected facilities along South Eads Street as well as those envisioned by the BID and community along the future Route 1.

The BID looks forward to continued engagement on this project with VDOT, our stakeholders, and the community. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and propel this transformational project forward and make National Landing a safer, more walkable downtown.

Sincerely,

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel
President & Executive Director
National Landing Business Improvement District

**NATIONAL LANDING
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