



**NATIONAL
LANDING**

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

July 9, 2021

Ms. Leah Gerber,
Project Manager
Arlington County DES
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Ms. Gerber,

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 on Arlington County's draft Crystal City Bike Network Plan presented at the June 15, 2021 virtual meeting.

The BID commends the County's project team for offering a public platform in which our community can ultimately inform a plan that delivers a safe bicycle network here in Crystal City. Balancing the need to improve connectivity, while still emphasizing safe bicycle connections that truly protect cyclists is certainly a challenge that the team is committed to and is evident in this iteration of the plan.

While the BID supports the improvements presented on June 15, there are however, several opportunities to strengthen its recommendations. The following challenges noted below will still need to be addressed:

- **Improve east-west connectivity-** While the opportunity to provide more intuitive north-south connectivity along South Clark Street was strengthened, delivering on east-west connectivity must be prioritized if a fully operational bike system is expected.
- **Enable development projects to proceed-** Although the development process approach is piecemeal, it ultimately delivers key bike network amenities that would have otherwise not been provided. Additionally, we hope the County will step in to ensure that gaps in the network are filled where redevelopment will not be delivering improvements, thereby offering a well-connected, and improved bike network.
- **Safe design upgrades-** Ensuring a safe and continuous system-wide network requires infrastructure that protects our cyclists. Providing safer infrastructure upgrades like protected bike lanes or hardened protection throughout the network is an important priority.


While the BID supports this recommended plan, there should, however, be a bolder, longer-term approach that follows this effort and looks more holistically at the National Landing downtown to ultimately improve a dedicated two-way, north-south bicycle facility along Crystal Drive.

**NATIONAL LANDING
BUSINESS
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We look forward to contributing to this process and fully expect a comprehensive bike plan that ultimately delivers on the needs of the broader transportation network. Additionally, we are optimistic that this plan will fully respond to and address VDOT's ongoing feasibility study for Route 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Gabriel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'G'.

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel
President & Executive Director