



**NATIONAL
LANDING**

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

September 26, 2022

Jennifer DeBruhl
Board Chair
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
919 East Main Street, Suite 2400
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Through-Running MARC trains to Northern Virginia

Dear Chair DeBruhl,

On behalf of the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) and its members, we are writing to urge the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) to pursue an agreement with the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) regarding the “through-running” of MARC trains to Northern Virginia. We believe the new travel options enabled by through-running would promote economic development by helping employers and institutions in Virginia attract top talent from across the region.

National Landing expects to add more than 25,000 jobs over the next ten years, while Virginia Tech’s Innovation Campus is expected to educate thousands more. Recruiting employees and students is thus a major priority for our community. An analysis by JBG SMITH and the Greater Washington Partnership found that through-running would bring more than 765,000 people, of whom 38% are college-educated and 59% are people of color, within a 60-minute transit commute of National Landing compared with the status quo. In our knowledge-based economy, the ability to attract a diverse, educated populace is a major potential advantage.

Through-running service also provides additional resiliency for our existing transit network. For example, Metro’s current shut down of the Yellow line across the Potomac River could have been mitigated by through-running MARC service turning a 2-hour detoured trip for a National Landing employee from College Park into a 20-minute, one-seat ride.

As you know, earlier this year the Maryland Legislature adopted the “Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act” which required the MTA to negotiate a service agreement with Virginia for through-running MARC trains. Since then, we understand that some conversations between the two states have occurred but that no agreement has been reached.

For National Landing, where more than 70% of trips are taken outside of personal cars, robust transit service is the lifeblood of our economy. As such, we truly appreciate VPRA’s historic efforts to expand passenger rail service through its *Transforming Rail in Virginia Program*. Through-running of MARC trains to Northern Virginia is a natural complement to these efforts that can leverage Virginia’s investments to further boost economic development in the Commonwealth. Maryland has made reaching an agreement that facilitates this service a priority; we encourage VPRA to do the same.

Sincerely,

Jay Corbalis
Vice President, JBG SMITH
Co-Chair, BID Transportation Committee

Harmar Thompson
Executive Vice President, LCOR
Co-Chair, BID Transportation Committee

CC: DJ Stadler, Executive Director, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
Tracy Sayegh Gabriel, President & Executive Director, National Landing BID

Attached: *Connecting to Opportunity – Analysis of MARC Through-Running (2020)*

**NATIONAL LANDING
BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT**

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MARC-VRE THROUGH-RUNNING

CONNECTING TO OPPORTUNITY

Connecting commuter rail between Maryland and Northern Virginia would increase economic opportunity throughout the DC region by expanding access to a diverse, educated workforce, well-paid jobs and moderately priced housing. "Through-running" service would provide commuters on both sides of the river a fast and convenient one-seat ride for the first time.

BENEFITS OF THROUGH-RUNNING



JOB ACCESS

For job-seekers...direct access to **25,000+ new jobs** in National Landing, L'Enfant Plaza, and Alexandria.



ACCESS TO QUALITY, DIVERSE TALENT

For employers..an additional **765,000 people** within commuting distance, of whom: **38% are college-educated**, and **59% are people of color**



HOUSING ACCESS

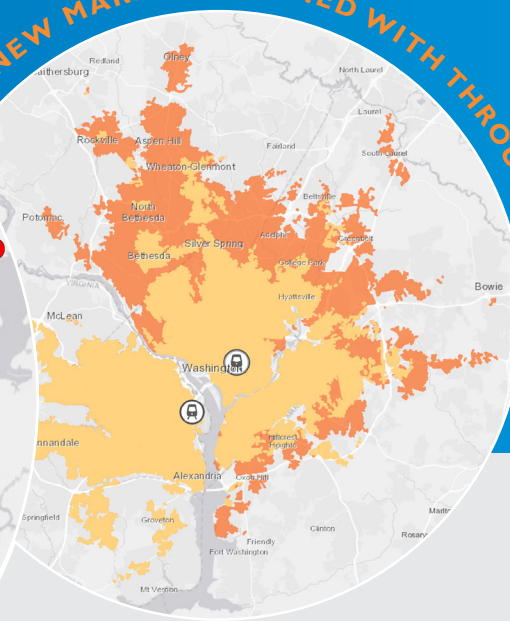
For employees.. access to an additional **97,000 moderately priced homes** within commuting distance.

Estimates based on GIS analysis using US Census Bureau data. Results assume all three MARC lines serve L'Enfant, Crystal City, and Alexandria stations.

MAP OF POTENTIAL SERVICE



NEW MARKETS OPENED WITH THROUGH-RUNNING*



KEY:

- Light orange square: Within 60 minutes by transit to National Landing in AM peak, without through-running
- Dark orange square: Within 60 minutes by transit to National Landing in AM peak, with through-running

*Using GTFS data, commuting time is determined by current and modeled transit schedules. One hour refers to the transit plus walking time to reach a destination.

