

January 16, 2017

Anna Chamberlin
Long Bridge Project Manager
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Ms. Chamberlin:

On behalf of the Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID), I would like to encourage DDOT to support a multimodal Long Bridge that includes a bicycle and pedestrian trail that will create a simpler and safer connection between Southwest Washington, DC and Northern Virginia. Strong connections to Northern Virginia are essential to Southwest businesses and employers. Similarly, Southwest residents recognize the importance of the employment, shopping, and recreational opportunities across the river.

The SWBID and our partners, including DDOT, have done a tremendous amount of work to make Southwest DC a true hub for multimodal transportation. There is a new cycle track on Maine Ave SW, a new neighborhood shuttle bus, new regional water taxi service, and a new bike/ped connection under construction at Banneker Circle. Despite these improvements, current connections to Northern Virginia are extremely challenging and cumbersome for bicyclists and pedestrians.

We urge DDOT to:

- Make the Long Bridge bicycle and pedestrian trail connect directly to Maine Avenue, instead of requiring an indirect, congested connection across the Washington Channel, as called for in the District's MoveDC plan and State Rail Plan;
- Make the Long Bridge bicycle and pedestrian connection continue across the George Washington Parkway to connect to the Long Bridge Park's multi-use esplanade across the George Washington Parkway to the Mount Vernon Trail, as called for in Arlington County's Long Bridge Park Master Plan;
- Leave space for a future trail connection across Maine Ave to Maryland Ave and Hancock Park; and
- Build the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure simultaneously with the rail span, not as a separate project.

We recognize the vital importance of the Long Bridge project for passenger and freight rail, as well as its potential to transform the region's trail network, so we look forward its prompt completion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Moore
Executive Director
Southwest Business Improvement District