

November 1, 2018

District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
Attn: Katherine Youngbluth, Strategic Transportation Planner

55 M St, S.E.
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Ms. Youngbluth:

The fifteen (15) organizations below are writing to express our strong support for the inclusion of a bicycle and pedestrian trail as a key component of the Long Bridge Project currently being planned by DDOT and FRA.

The Long Bridge Project represents a once in a generation opportunity to transform our regional transportation network by adding rail capacity, connecting major regional trails and providing new, direct links to two of the fastest growing areas of our region; realizing this full potential is vitally important to the communities that we represent.

Including a bicycle and pedestrian trail in the Long Bridge Project will have many benefits, including:

- Enhancing regional multimodal connectivity by providing crucial links to several important regional trails;
- Reducing congestion on existing Potomac River crossings as well as roadways by making non-motorized modes of transportation safer and more accessible; and
- Spurring economic development by linking two key activity nodes in Southwest DC and Crystal City.

To ensure we take full advantage of this unique opportunity, we believe the Long Bridge project must incorporate the following principles.

1. Include a bicycle and pedestrian trail across the Potomac River.
2. This bicycle and pedestrian trail should be funded and constructed concurrently with the rail component of the Long Bridge project.
3. The bicycle and pedestrian trail should be incorporated into the design of the broader project in a way that optimizes the achievability of the project with regard to cost and complexity.
4. The bicycle and pedestrian trail should be designed to enhance the connectivity of the regional trail network. Specifically, the trail should connect to the esplanade in Long Bridge Park. In the District, the trail should extend as far towards L'Enfant Plaza as physically possible to maximize connectivity to existing trails.
5. The bicycle and pedestrian trail should be designed and constructed to the highest design standards, with a minimum width of 12 feet wide, and seamless connections to existing trail networks.

We thank you for your efforts on this project, and your commitment to making the region a more interconnected and vibrant place to live, work and recreate. We look forward to continuing to work with the project team in order to ensure that the project truly meets the needs of our regional transportation network.

Sincerely,

Alexandria Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Crystal City Civic Association
DC Recreational Trails Advisory Committee
DC Bicycle Advisory Commission
Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling
Friends of Long Bridge Park
Friends of Mt. Vernon Trail
Greater Greater Washington
PN Hoffman
Rails-To-Trails Conservancy
September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance
Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID)
Virginia Bicycling Federation
Washington Area Bicyclist Association
Ward 3 Bicycle Advocates

Cc: Federal Railroad Administration
CSX