



WABA

WASHINGTON AREA
BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

August 13, 2021

Dear Project Managers,

Thank you for organizing the Stakeholder meeting on Monday. As emphasized in the meeting, this project is an opportunity to solve multiple needs. WABA would like to highlight the following needs:

1. There is currently no direct, bikeable, and walkable path between Crystal City and the Reagan National Airport. The existing connection is a winding, unintuitive, and largely unlit path of almost one mile that involves two steep hills and two uncomfortable tunnels. The proposed project would provide direct access and allow people to choose active modes of transportation to and from the airport.
2. If connected directly to the Mount Vernon Trail, this project would provide redundancy in the regional bicycle and trail network. Redundancy is critical to provide additional routing options to suit different user's particular needs, to better serve the many destinations in Crystal City, and to provide safe accommodations for trail detours during unavoidable construction. Furthermore, with employment on the rise in Crystal City with the coming Amazon and Virginia Tech campuses, a new, high-quality and attractive trail connection from the regional Mount Vernon Trail to Crystal Drive will encourage far more employees to choose sustainable, active transportation to get to work.
3. Currently, FEMA and HSEMA use the Mt. Vernon Trail as an Emergency Evacuation route for events happening on and around the National Mall (like the 4th of July fireworks). The 4th of July emergency plan was to walk people from the National Mall to Gravelly Point along the Mt. Vernon Trail. In case of an emergency, people evacuated to Gravelly Point do not have a safe, direct, and accessible way to get to Crystal City to access public transportation, to get to shelter, or to access resources like food and water. The CC2DCA connector would provide a safe connection between the Mount Vernon Trail and Crystal City.

Additional comments:

The alternative should:

1. Support both walking AND biking. The alternative must be designed for both walking and biking. People who bike should have a wide, unobstructed path, built to AASHTO

trail standards to safely travel. Bikers should not be asked to dismount their bikes or ride an elevator to access the connector.

2. Connect directly to the Mt. Vernon Trail via ADA-compliant ramps (not just an elevator)
3. Connect directly to the new VRE Station (& potential future Amtrak station)
4. Be a bridge and not a tunnel
5. Be convenient to MetroWay & the new Crystal City Metro 2nd Entrance

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephanie