

March X, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The People Before Cars Coalition (PBC) is writing to express its full support for the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services (DES) grant application to complete the Arlington Memorial Trail through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program.

The Coalition is a partnership of area business and advocacy organizations united by shared priorities to foster a safer and more accessible transportation network. We champion best practices in people-centered mobility, urban design, and planning within National Landing's three neighborhoods of Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yard, engaging to support projects like the Arlington Memorial Trail.

The Arlington Memorial Trail is a priority project by any measure. It is one of the Capital Trails Coalition's top 40 top priority projects selected from more than 180 trail segments due to its significance in filling a critical gap in the regional bicycle/pedestrian network. Its importance is also highlighted in the National Capital Trail Network, the visionary 1,400-mile trail network recently adopted by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, our region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The trail will provide a needed connection between the fast-growing Arlington neighborhoods and business districts of Pentagon City and Crystal City that we represent in the southern portion of the county with Rosslyn in the north. It also deepens the connections between Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia, offering a low-stress, off-road, people-friendly transportation alternative through one of the region's most notorious and difficult-to-traverse tangles of federal facilities and major highways.

In addition to being a transportation link on its own, the Arlington Memorial Trail will also increase access to transit, providing a connection directly to and between the Arlington Cemetery and Pentagon Metro stations and expanding the multimodal reach of the nearby Rosslyn and Crystal City Metro stations. Investing in our transit and active transportation networks are absolutely critical to encouraging the kind of mode shift called for by both Arlington County and the current administration per their stated commitments to reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and transportation-related carbon emissions.

This short but pivotal connection between Washington, DC, the Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon Memorial, the future Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Visitor Center, and the surrounding growing communities in National Landing will improve multimodal options and safety for the rapidly increasing number of trail users - both local residents and visiting tourists - in this region. The project, when finished, can be showcased as a model project of how filling critical gaps in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure can have exponentially beneficial network effects and how all levels of government can work together to create vibrant and connected communities and public spaces.

We therefore urge you to select Arlington County DES's application for a 2023 RAISE grant to support this critical project.

Sincerely,  
The People Before Cars Coalition

**Gillian Burgess**, Board President, Arlington Families for Safe Streets  
**Jay Corbalis**, Vice President, Public Affairs JBG SMITH  
**Tracy Sayegh Gabriel**, President & Executive Director, National Landing BID  
**Jeremiah Lowery**, Advocacy Director, Washington Area Bicyclist Association  
**Stewart Schwartz**, Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth  
**Chris Slatt**, President, Sustainable Mobility for Arlington County