



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

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Executive Director

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May 2, 2023

Garrett Hennigan
Washington Area Bicyclist Association
2599 Ontario Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Hennigan,

Thank you for your letter dated April 10, 2023, conveying your comments on the preliminary engineering and design of the Long Bridge as well as your support for the Long Bridge Project. Please find the following responses to the comments provided.

1. Expand Maine Avenue underpass for a wider Anacostia River Trail

We concur with your concern about the width of the sidewalk that serves as the Anacostia River Trail under the 14th St. bridge, the two-track rail bridge, and the Maine Ave SW pedestrian bridge. We have worked to improve the pinch point in the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail along Maine Ave by relocating the rail and pedestrian bridge abutments back from the roadway and expanding the sidewalk under the proposed rail bridge from about 11 feet to 24 feet. Please refer to the attached **Exhibit A** showing the proposed concept plan for this area, including drawings from the Preliminary Engineering 30% set showing layout and a typical cross section. The exhibit also illustrates the proposed improvements to the geometry of the 14th St off-ramp at Maine Ave SW which are targeted to improve safety and create better visibility at the intersection.

2) Bike/Pedestrian Trail Bridge Width

We appreciate your participation in the February 2023 stakeholder meeting and other public outreach activities. Your feedback and support are very valuable. We understand the value in widening the Potomac River Bike-Ped bridge beyond 16 feet and have assessed a variety of options for adding width, however cost, environmental and visual impacts, safety, constructability, and maintenance factors have led us to rule out further widening. After due consideration, we have concluded that the currently proposed width of 16 feet will accommodate high volumes of users of all ages and abilities. The proposed bridge capacity exceeds the anticipated usage, both now and in the future.

Please see the attached **Exhibit B**, which further describes the proposed bike-ped bridge, and includes a discussion of width.

VPRA is excited to help expand sustainable recreation and transportation options in the region. We look forward to our continued collaboration to design and deliver the best Potomac River Bike-Ped and Rail bridges possible.

Sincerely,

Gerica Goodman
Director of External Affairs and Communications

Attached:

Exhibit A – Anacostia River Trail Graphics

Exhibit B – Bike-Ped Bridge Explainer