



December 2, 2020

WMATA Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chair Smedberg,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce encourages WMATA to name the new Metrorail station as "Potomac Yard – VT." Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus will be a defining attraction of the Potomac Yard area. Moreover, including the university's name is consistent with the naming of other Metrorail stations near university centers.

The Innovation Campus will be a major anchor for Potomac Yard. Virginia Tech will maintain a large presence of faculty, researchers, and students studying, researching, and interning at the site. Moreover, Virginia Tech is designing the Innovation Campus to interact with the broader public, including people traveling to Potomac Yard to engage with the university or with businesses who choose to locate alongside it. Recognizing the centrality of Virginia Tech in this neighborhood's future, the Alexandria City Council voted unanimously to endorse "Potomac Yard – VT" as the station name.

Highlighting universities is consistent with established Metrorail practice. Universities are included in station names in all three jurisdictions, including the Ballston – MU and Virginia Square – GMU stations in Arlington. Including these names highlights the centrality of these universities to the locations these stations serve. They are also an important navigational aid to visitors who wish to use Metrorail to travel to these universities, but are unaware of their neighborhoods' names. Naming this new station "Potomac Yard – VT" will serve these prospective riders and promote Metrorail ridership.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO