



March 17, 2021

Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair de Ferranti,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports the proposed amendment to Site Plan No. 167 to update the Crystal City Connector path and Crystal City Water Park. The proposed updates will enhance the path and park, helping develop the area around the Crystal City rail station as a regional center. Moreover, the design changes made since January should allay the safety concerns raised at that County Board meeting.

The upgrades to the park and connector path will activate the park and improve the experience for people connecting to Crystal City from the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) station and Mount Vernon Trail. The two pathways will create a more open and pleasant experience, and will separate pedestrians and bicyclists to minimize conflict as they access the Crystal City Connector tunnel to the Mount Vernon Trail and the new north entrance of the VRE station. A promenade streetscape, new retail structures, and a net increase of 45 trees will enhance and activate the park to benefit the community.

The path design has been updated to alleviate concerns about pedestrian and bicycle conflict that were raised at the January County Board meeting. A proposed staircase to connect the main area of the park to the Crystal City Connector tunnel has been removed to prevent cross traffic between pedestrians coming down the stairs and path users. A connection between the two paths has been moved farther from the tunnels, and will be landscaped to increase visibility for users in all directions, thus maintaining easy access between the Mount Vernon Trail and VRE station and promoting safety by reducing the possibility of conflict between different modes of travel.

We believe this update to the park and connector will help fulfill our community's vision for Crystal City, and encourage you to support it. 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

CC: Arlington County Board Vice Chair Katie Cristol and members Christian Dorsey, Libby Garvey, and Takis Karantonis; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Olivia Sontag, Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development; Joanne Gabor, Department of Environmental Services