



November 22, 2022

Mr. Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports Amtrak in its application for FY22 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program funding for the Crystal City High Level Platform Project. Crystal City is one of the three neighborhoods comprising National Landing, a dynamic economic hub within Arlington. This project would help ensure the arrival of Amtrak service to Crystal City, providing greater sustainable transportation opportunities and greater connectivity not just for National Landing but for Arlington as a whole.

An Amtrak station would provide a direct rail link between Crystal City and cities such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia to the north, and Richmond and Norfolk to the south. This addition to our transportation network would be vital in accommodating the existing and future growth of Arlington. Arlington's transportation network will be enhanced by a Crystal City Amtrak station, which can connect with existing pedestrian and bicycle trails, including the nearby Mount Vernon Trail. Finally, the arrival of the CC2DCA project would allow Arlington residents and visitors to directly connect from Washington Reagan National Airport to the Amtrak station, in addition to offices and hotels in National Landing.

The project specifically allows for the construction of an 850-foot high-level platform for Amtrak trains, which would connect with the low-level platforms for VRE commuter rail via shared access points and ramps. This would ensure a seamless connection between regional and intercity rail, and be accessible to all visitors and residents. This Project demonstrates maturity of project design and strong project readiness, as construction efforts will begin in a timely manner, should this grant be awarded.

The rapid increase in economic development in National Landing requires efficient and reliable transit services. Retaining the status quo of services risks producing a severe strain on the existing national transportation network, negatively impacting equity, access, the environment, and economic development. Therefore, we support Amtrak's application for the CRISI Program grant for the Project.

Thank you for your consideration of our 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