

October 31, 2016

ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS



Ms. Monica Backman
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
3040 Williams Drive
Suite 300
Fairfax, VA 22031

Dear Ms. Backman,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce applauds the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for funding the Crystal City Streets/12th Street Transitway as well as the Lee Highway Corridor ITS Enhancements. As outlined in our June 1, 2016 letter, both projects will have a significant impact on the Arlington business community as well as the greater region.

As the Authority is aware, Crystal City is a major Regional Activity Center, currently holding 73,000 jobs (2015) and forecasted to reach 112,700 jobs by 2040. The Crystal City package of projects enhances connectivity in this Regional Activity Center by reconfiguring roadways and expanding transit capacity to maintain mobility and spillover congestion as the area redevelops. The projects provide enhanced connectivity needed on the local network to handle additional capacity on I-395 delivered as part of the proposed I-395 Express Lanes project. The Crystal City project also extends to Pentagon City the Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway, Virginia's first BRT service. This extension will provide new rapid transit access to multiple Regional Activity Centers, will reduce congestion on Route 1, and will add transit capacity at one of Metrorail's most congested points. We appreciate the Authority's wise, well-informed choice to add this project in after the staff draft, based on the scoring metrics and the overall impact of the project, as requested in our June letter.

In addition, the Lee Highway Corridor is a critical northern arterial that serves as an alternate east-west commuting route and has proven invaluable during the Metrorail SafeTrack surges, with increased ART service connecting several Regional Activity Centers. The Lee Highway ITS project will allow for more streamlined movement through the corridor, understanding that increasing capacity along this corridor with a diversity of development patterns is impossible. ITS will provide more reliable, predictable transit service, which is vital to the businesses along the corridor.

We respect and appreciate the difficult decisions that the Authority must make in terms of project funding, and we commend the Authority on the decision to include these two projects.

We are aware of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance's communication in opposition to these two projects, and wish to reemphasize that this position does not speak for regional business community and in particular, the Arlington business community. These two projects add great benefit to the region and fall completely in line with the Authority's objectives and metrics.

Sincerely,



Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: David Birtwistle, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance