



September 17, 2021

Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22031

Dear Ms. Backmon,

A robust transportation network is vital for Northern Virginia's economic success. The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports continuing investments to build on recent commitments and projects to help connect people from across our region to employment and other economic centers. The Chamber encourages the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) to design its TransAction Plan to prioritize projects that will support development and connections throughout the region.

Robust transit, and Metrorail in particular, serves as the backbone of Arlington and Northern Virginia's transportation management program and as a primary driver of economic development in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. Maintaining pre-pandemic service levels on Metrorail and Metrobus is vital to ensuring that our transit systems can support the needs of our service workforce. The Chamber supports extending non-traditional transit operating hours to support the travel needs of the 24-hour workforce. Key projects to connect transit riders include a second entrance at the Ballston Metro station and a new Rosslyn Metro tunnel. The Chamber encourages the addition of mass-transit systems (bus-rapid transit or similar) in the Richmond Highway and Columbia Pike corridors, and believes that transit from Potomac Yard to Columbia Pike, through National Landing, should be planned as a single corridor.

A road network that functions for all users and all modes, including transit, cyclists, riders of shared mobility devices, pedestrians, and automobiles, is essential for mobility within Arlington, and for connecting Arlington with our region. Transportation planning should account for each of these modes and all different use cases. A diverse transportation network should include support for all types of vehicles, including "green" and sustainable vehicles, and infrastructure for cyclists and riders of shared mobility devices

We look forward to engaging with NVTA as it develops its updated TransAction Plan and we 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; Arlington County Manager; Arlington County Department of Environmental Services, Transportation Division