



September 22, 2023

Christian Dorsey  
Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suit 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Dorsey,

On behalf of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to support the approval of Item 33 on the September 23 County Board Agenda, the approval of the Project Coordination Agreement between the County and WMATA for the creation of an eastern entrance to the Crystal City Metrorail Station. We were pleased to see this item on the Consent Agenda, and we hope to see it approved.

Metrorail continues to be the backbone of Arlington's transportation infrastructure and is a primary economic development driver. The Crystal City station is one of the most highly used in Arlington, and we anticipate that trips to and from Crystal City will increase as the neighborhood's development continues. The Chamber has long advocated for an eastern entrance to this station to support economic development in Crystal City and in National Landing, expressing support in 2021 for the including funds for this project in the Capital Improvement Plan.

This new entrance will provide more direct access to offices, shops, and residences along Crystal Drive, while delivering more convenient elevator access to the station and other safety improvements. The east entrance also will offer a more direct connection to the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), the Metroway bus rapid transit network, and the future Amtrak service from the VRE station.

We thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Kate" and "Bates" being capitalized and prominent.

Kate Bates  
President & CEO

CC: County Board Vice-Chair Libby Garvey, and Members Matt de Ferranti, Takis Karantonis and Tannia Talento; County Manager Mark Schwartz.