July 14, 2026

Chair Matt de Ferranti
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair de Ferranti,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance of the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) currently under consideration by the County Board. We applaud the hard work and fiscal restraint that went into this proposed plan, and we look forward to the ultimate implementation of key infrastructure projects.

We also appreciate that the proposed approximately $4.3 billion CIP budget represents a 17.5 percent decrease from the 2024 CIP budget. As Arlington County navigates fiscal constraints and an uncertain budgetary future, we applaud this restraint. County Staff has proposed a thoughtful balance between fiscal stewardship and appropriations for necessary infrastructure improvements for our community.

The Chamber wants to emphasize the importance of the $1.5 billion proposed to be appropriated for transportation obligations and improvements. A robust and reliable transportation infrastructure is crucial to the workforce, economic development, and quality of life in Arlington. In particular, funding for the completion of the Crystal City East Metro station entrance and the Ballston West Metro station entrance will greatly benefit residents, businesses, and visitors for both the National Landing and Ballston business districts.

The Chamber also notes the necessity of the Commercial Market Resiliency Initiative (CMRI) as a compliment to the County's long-term vision articulated in the CIP. Allowing greater flexibility in our commercial market removes undervalued commercial building supply and generates tax revenue for the County to fund key capital improvement project, as well as other critical services.

We appreciate the thoughtfulness and vision of the CIP, and we urge for its ultimate adoption. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Kate Bates

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: Vice-Chair Maureen Coffey; County Board Members Susan Cunningham, Takis Karantonis, and Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr.; County Manager Mark Schwartz.