September 23, 2026

Chair Tenley Peterson
Long Range Planning Committee
Arlington County Planning Commission
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Peterson and Members of the Committee,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports the broad goals of the Draft Multimodal Transportation Plan. We appreciate that economic vitality is named a key component of the Livable goal in the Plan. However, we request revisions to policies to best reflect the needs Arlington businesses have from our transportation system, and the important role that they play in advancing the economic vitality and livability of Arlington.

We encourage the County to strengthen several policies in the Plan to more effectively recognize the needs of businesses and measure the outcomes of the Plan through economic development activities. Several of the Plan's 22 policies should more explicitly recognize the role that economic development activities, such as business growth, play in promoting livability.

We respectfully ask that the County:

- Strengthen Policies F to explicitly address the importance of customer access and delivery access for businesses;
- Expand Policy L to consider ways to mitigate the impact that extended construction of streetscapes and street corridors has on business access and visibility;
- Revise Policy H to recognize business owners, BIDs, and partnerships as interested parties in transportation policy decision making;
- Include an economic development metric in Chapter 7, to recognize economic development as a measurable outcome of the transportation plan;
- Adjust Strategy 6 of Policy D, which, as written, requires all public and private property development projects to provide easements for, and construction of, sidewalks along their frontages that align with their respective street typology. This strategy should be adjusted to account for the need for a clear, predictable set of standards. Property owners undertaking a site plan amendment or redevelopment should not be left to absorb the costs of these streetscape improvements without a clear set of standards known beforehand; and
- Strengthen the Plan's commitment to north-south connectivity. The Chamber has previously recognized in our Public Policy Positions the economic importance of enhanced connectivity in the north-south direction.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of these comments, and we await the ultimate adoption of this impactful Plan with these adjustments, as well as its eventual implementation.

Sincerely,

Kate Bates

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: Long Range Planning Commissioners; County Manager Mark Schwartz; CPHD Director Samia Byrd; Kristin Calkins, Principal Planner.