



**NATIONAL
LANDING**

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation, USDOT
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard business community, the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) expresses its support for the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority's (VPRA) submission of an application for the US Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program to fund design and construction of the New Long Bridge Rail Capacity Project.

Located adjacent to National Airport and along one of the busiest passenger rail corridors in the country, National Landing is well situated at the heart of the region's multimodal mobility network. With over \$8 billion in private development underway in National Landing, continued investment in maintaining and expanding this network is critical to support anticipated travel demand, minimize congestion, and ensure economic resilience.

The Long Bridge Project will enhance the multimodal transportation network by addressing a critical railroad bottleneck on the East Coast between the Northeast Corridor (NEC) and the Southeast rail corridor (SEC). It will construct a new publicly owned two-track rail bridge adjacent to the existing CSX owned Long Bridge across the Potomac River. When complete, the Project will grow the existing two-track bridge into a four-track corridor providing additional long-term capacity for the growing intercity passenger rail and commuter rail services between the NEC, Virginia, and points south in North Carolina and beyond. The additional capacity created by this Project will enable the separation of passenger and freight rail traffic, thereby improving service reliability, and will enhance interoperability for freight and passenger rail service on both bridges to ensure network resiliency and redundancy.

Virginia, in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration and District Department of Transportation, completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) assessment for the Project with a Final Record of Decision in August 2020. The four-track expansion design which was the preferred alternative of the FEIS and includes a pedestrian bridge proposed as Final Section 4(f) environmental mitigation for this Project is truly a multimodal improvement to the national transportation infrastructure. The enhanced multimodal bridge network will connect the thriving regional network in Virginia and the District of Columbia with a safer, higher capacity, and more efficient route. This Project will deliver a sustainable and equitable transportation option by enabling enhanced passenger, commuter, and freight rail services for people and goods moving regionally, throughout the East Coast, and even traveling west into the nation's Heartland.

Please accept this letter of recommendation as an indication of the National Landing BID's support for the VPRA's request for the USDOT MPDG funding opportunity for design and construction of the New Long Bridge Capacity Expansion Project to enhance multimodal transportation options and to ensure the Long Bridge Corridor continues to serve as a critical link connecting the local, regional, and national transportation network.

Thank you for your consideration and support of multimodal transportation options. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Tracy@nationallanding.org.

Sincerely,

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel
President & Executive Director
National Landing Business Improvement District

**NATIONAL LANDING
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