



**NATIONAL
LANDING**

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

October 27, 2022

Jennifer Debruhl
Director, Department of Rail and Public Transportation
600 East Main Street, Suite 2102
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: 2022 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan

Dear Director DeBruhl,

On behalf of the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID), we are writing to provide input on the Draft 2022 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan. National Landing is Virginia's largest walkable downtown and a major growth center, which is heavily reliant on transit. The BID is a strong supporter of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT) overall agenda in the Commonwealth and requests the inclusion of additional major rail initiatives in the Statewide Rail Plan for a more comprehensive view of rail in our region.

We were pleased to see the inclusion of the planned VRE Crystal City Station Improvements in the Plan. That new station, which will also provide a direct connection to National Airport via the future CC2DCA multimodal connection, will help support all the residential and office growth underway and planned for the Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yard neighborhoods of National Landing and create new opportunities for economic development.

We understand that VPRA, VRE and Amtrak have an agreement in place that will allow Amtrak to build a high-level platform at the Crystal City Station, and that Amtrak and VRE are currently coordinating on design. Likewise, we understand that VPRA and the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) are negotiating a framework to bring MARC trains to Northern Virginia when the new Long Bridge opens. We encourage DRPT to incorporate both the existing plan to establish Amtrak service at the station and ongoing efforts to bring MARC run-through service to Northern Virginia, as logical and powerful additions to the Statewide Rail Plan

Both efforts will have a significant, positive impact on passenger rail service and economic development in Northern Virginia and will help leverage the investments being made through the Transforming Rail in Virginia Initiative. By including both Amtrak and MARC run-through service initiatives in the forthcoming Statewide Rail Plan, CRPT will provide the market a needed boost in confidence that these projects are indeed coming.

Sincerely,

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel
President & Executive Director
National Landing BID

Robert H. Mandle
Deputy Executive Director
National Landing BID

**NATIONAL LANDING
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IMPROVEMENT
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