



STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Karl Moritz
Director
Department of Planning and Zoning
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

October 16, 2015

Re: Eisenhower West Steering Committee Endorsement of the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan

Dear Mr. Moritz:

The Eisenhower West Small Area Plan Steering Committee is pleased to express its support for the Draft Plan being proposed to Planning Commission and City Council, subject to the agreed upon changes to the plan discussed at the Committee's 17th and final meeting on October 14, 2015.

The Committee would like to call attention to several features of the Draft Plan in particular. First, the Draft Plan adopts a *vision* for a diverse array of land uses that will encourage economic development and the creation of open spaces to enhance a sense of place in Eisenhower West. The Plan's areas of emphasis include the Van Dorn Metro and a revitalized Backlick Run. Second, the Draft Plan emphasizes *flexibility* that will allow development to occur swiftly and dynamically to further that vision, now that the arrival of TSA will serve as a catalyst for such activity. Third, the Draft Plan encourages *consistency* across city planning efforts by incorporating pre-existing city plans and policies in critical areas such as affordable housing and open space, without reinventing the wheel. Fourth, and perhaps most critically, the Draft Plan reflects the importance of *connectivity and infrastructure* to the growth of this part of the city, especially future north-south connections to Eisenhower Avenue. Pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular mobility is a key element to realizing the Small Area Plan's vision. The Draft Plan cannot get off the ground without infrastructure improvements, including interim improvements in the immediate near-term.

In addition to the contents of the Draft Plan, the Committee expresses its great appreciation for the process that brought us to this point. The outreach to the community in the development of the Draft Plan was extraordinary. The Draft Plan has benefitted substantially from community input at every stage. This could not have occurred without the tireless efforts of City staff. They are to be congratulated for a job well done.

(Over)

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate in this process. We cannot wait to see the results.

Sincerely,



Mindy Lyle, Planning Commission Representative, Chair
On behalf of the Eisenhower West Steering Committee

Judy Coleman, Park and Recreation Commission
Maria Wasowski, Transportation Commission
Tyler Orton, Environmental Policy Commission
Michael Adams, Community Representative
Arthur Impastato, Community Representative
Jim Durham, Community Representative
David Heiden, Business Representative
Agnes Artemel, Business Representative
Mary Catherine Gibbs, Business Representative
Ken Wire, Landowner Group Representative

Cc: Alexandria Planning Commission
Mayor and Members of City Council
Eisenhower West Steering Committee
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Jeffrey Farner, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Zoning