

Attachment 1: DRAFT Letter of Support

October 28, 2019

Ms. Anna Chamberlin
Long Bridge Project
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

RE: Long Bridge Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear. Ms. Chamberlin:

On behalf of the City of Alexandria, I am writing to convey the City of Alexandria's endorsement of the Long Bridge Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) identification of Action Alternative A as the preferred alternative. The City of Alexandria is a participating jurisdiction given its proximity to the bridge and the benefits it could realize from the project.

On September 5, 2019, the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process of evaluating potential environmental and human impacts of the Long Bridge Project alternatives. In this document, the Long Bridge preferred alternative, Action Alternative A, will fulfill the purpose and need of the project to expand rail capacity and the regional transportation network while minimizing costs, construction time and impacts to the surrounding area.

Construction of a new, two-track bridge would align with station and rail infrastructure improvements planned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and VRE to expand the number of commuter and intercity trains. Furthermore, the parallel bridge configuration proposed under Action Alternative A would reduce disruption during construction, which are essential to the mobility of Northern Virginia and the region.

The City of Alexandria strongly supports this project to expand mobility and reduce single occupancy vehicle traffic in the region and through Alexandria. VRE has demonstrated that its service takes a considerable number of cars off the road and will only have a greater impact with more frequent and reliable service made possible by the Long Bridge project. In addition to enabling improved commuter rail service, this project is essential for the increased rail service and improved connectivity between the Washington D.C. region and Richmond that is being advanced as part of the DC2RVA project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and look forward to issuance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.

Sincerely,

Justin M. Wilson
Mayor, City of Alexandria

Cc: Mark B. Jinks, City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, Department of Transportation & Environmental Services