

January 12, 2018

Mr. Mark Schwartz
Arlington County Manager
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Via e-mail: mschwartz@arlingtonva.us

Committee Members
Pamela Van Hine, Chair
Eric Goldstein, Vice Chair
Ellen Armbruster
John Armstrong
Jim Feaster
Eric Goodman
Tom Korns
Christine Ng
Chris Yarie

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

The Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) urges the County to act now to encourage the Long Bridge Project to include attached bike-ped bridge as part of the Long Bridge Project in its review of alternatives. Such a bike-ped pathway should cover both the “missing link” from the north end of Long Bridge Park over the George Washington Parkway to the Mount Vernon Trail and a bike-ped bridge over the Potomac to the District. Plans for this bridge have been included not only in numerous County planning documents, but also in the National Park Service, National Capital Region [Paved Trail Study](#).

The PAC supports the proposed bike-ped bridges because:

- They will provide a key new passage way for bikes and pedestrians to access the District of Columbia, and for DC users to access Arlington, Crystal City, and Northern Virginia.
- The Long Bridge Park to Mount Vernon Trail bike-ped bridge is a key "missing trail link" in our region. Completing “missing links” in the regional trail network provides large increases in connectivity, with relatively small investments in infrastructure.
- By providing alternative paths, they will reduce congestion on heavily used sections of the Mount Vernon Trail, thus reducing conflict and travel time for all users. They may also reduce congestion and conflict through the Crystal City Connector and the connection between Four Mile Run Trail and the Mount Vernon Trail.
- A new pathway over the Potomac would relieve congestion and conflict on the existing bike-ped path on the north side of the 14th Street Bridge.
- The Long Bridge Park to Mount Vernon Trail bike-ped bridge will be an important access point for pedestrians and cyclists to the new aquatics center in the park. Developing the bike-ped bridge in conjunction with the construction of the new aquatics center will create efficiencies and cost savings.

Coordination of these bike-ped bridges with each other and with the rest of the Long Bridge Project is critical. Including the bike-ped bridge in the Project will help ensure that the planning, design, and construction of the entire bike-ped connection is completed in a logical, efficient, and cost-effective manner. Please work with our regional and Federal partners to include an attached bike-ped bridge as part of the preferred alternative, and include plans for the bridge to include the “missing trail link” between Long Bridge Park and the Mount Vernon Trail.

Sincerely,

Pamela Van Hine
Chair, Pedestrian Advisory Committee