IN REPLY REFER TO:
NCPC File No. CP12

September 7, 2021

The Honorable Matt de Ferranti
Chair
Arlington County Board
Ellen M. Bozman Government Center
2100 Clarendon Boulevard Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Mr. Ferranti:

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) staff appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Arlington County Manager’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Many of the CIP projects support the planning principles and policies in the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements (Comprehensive Plan).

The NCPC staff is supportive of the CIP projects that provide critical connections, expansions, and connectivity for federal facilities to the region’s transportation system, particularly important for the effectiveness of the federal workforce. Projects including the Army Navy Drive Transit Center, Boundary Channel Drive Interchanges with I-395, Columbia Pike Multi-Modal, Army Navy Drive Complete Street, Bike Arlington – Cemetery Wall Trail, and Columbia Pike Streets are consistent with many of the policies in the Comprehensive Plan’s Transportation Element to advance an interconnected transportation system and improve regional mobility. The Columbia Pike Streets project will connect to the Federal Highway Administration’s Defense Access Roadway improvement project.

We welcome the Crystal City Metro Station East Entrance project, Crystal City to Washington National Airport Intermodal Connector project, and Arlington County’s commitment to supporting public infrastructure improvements in National Landing. These improvements will help increase access and support the arrival of the new Amazon Headquarters (HQ2), a proposed contributor to the region’s economy. NCPC staff request that views along the historic George Washington Memorial Parkway property be studied as part of the upcoming National Environmental Policy Act process for the Crystal City to Washington National Airport Intermodal Connector project, to reduce visual impacts and maintain the integrity of the parkway.

The CIP features several important park projects such as the Arlington Boathouse, which supports policies in the Comprehensive Plan’s Parks and Open Space Element to connect open space along the Potomac shoreline and encourage water access to provide a continuous public open space system. In 2019, the NCPC signed a Programmatic Agreement with the National Park Service, County Board of Arlington County, Department of Parks and Recreation, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, and Virginia State Historic Preservation Office for developing
a boathouse and related facilities on the Virginia side of the Potomac River south and west of Washington, DC, on land administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The NCPC will continue to coordinate with the National Park Service on the formal design review of the Arlington Boathouse project.

We also continue to appreciate the County’s ongoing and proposed contributions to regional organizations, including the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

Finally, successful implementation on many of these projects will require continued coordination with applicable federal agencies including the NCPC, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Department of Transportation. NCPC staff are always available to help facilitate coordination as necessary between our federal partners and the County.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your recommended CIP. We look forward to working with you to continue advancing our shared regional goals in the future. If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Angela Dupont at 202-482-7232 or angela.dupont@ncpc.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director