



NATIONAL LANDING

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

May 11, 2021

Mr. Matt de Ferranti
Chair
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chair de Ferranti and Members of the Arlington County Board,

On behalf of the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) and the collective business communities of Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard, I am writing in support of the proposed Arlington County Vision Zero Action Plan.

I would first like to commend County staff as the National Landing BID's representative on the Vision Zero External Stakeholder Working Group on an incredibly thorough engagement process. A great many thoughtful conversations were had amongst the working group as well as throughout the community and have led to a forward-thinking policy that will lead to improved safety across our mobility network.

As Virginia's largest walkable downtown, National Landing will benefit greatly from an applied Vision Zero policy that recognizes that the future of the County is urban, multimodal, and people-centric.

In a geographic area of approximately one square mile, National Landing contains as much commercial office space as downtown Austin with enough square footage in the pipeline to match downtown Miami within the next five years. The area is home to 16,000 residential units with another 7,000 on the way. Over 5,000 hotel rooms add thousands of additional people to the downtown population. Serving this population is a vast collection of retail, restaurant, and service amenities providing much of what anyone might need on a daily basis within a 15-minute walk of anywhere within the downtown.

To support this economy as well as the anticipated development, National Landing has excellent mobility infrastructure bones with critical investment on the way. To serve planned growth, close to \$4 billion is being invested in transportation projects throughout the downtown. The BID's Mobility Next report outlines how National Landing is being transformed into the country's most connected downtown with investments like the CC2DCA Intermodal Connector, new rail stations for Metro and VRE, groundbreaking rail infrastructure, complete streets updates, and much more. Any one of these investments would be transformational, yet the National Landing community will see all of them realized over the next decade or so.

The common thread between each of these projects is that they are distinctly focused on expanding mobility, not by adding roadway capacity, but rather by maximizing the movement of people via a variety of different modes. Though these people-first infrastructure investments will transform the physical environment, a strong Vision Zero policy will drive a needed shift in the collective mobility safety mindset.

Through the Vision Zero Action Plan, the County can more confidently apply the philosophy of a people-first mobility network and address lingering safety concerns that continue to plague our existing built environment and the planning processes used to address them. A properly applied Vision Zero policy will recognize the importance of a strong, interconnected, and protected bicycle network throughout National Landing. It will recognize that trading off safety in the name of speed and any number of seconds saved in per capita travel time is not acceptable. It will recognize that 60's era urban highways like Richmond Highway, whether elevated or

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surface-level, bifurcating our neighborhoods are not compatible with the County's long-held vision for safety, walkability, and accessibility.

A strong Vision Zero policy arms County citizens and elected officials with the framework necessary to ensure that future decisions about mobility infrastructure investments put people before cars and place the safety of our most vulnerable mobility consumers first. We encourage the Transportation Commission to continue the progress by recommending the County Board approve the proposed Vision Zero Action Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert H. Mandle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Robert H. Mandle
Deputy Executive Director
National Landing Business Improvement District

Cc: Tracy Gabriel, President/Executive Director, National Landing BID
Andy VanHorn, Chair, National Landing BID Board of Directors
Jay Corbalis, Co-Chair, National Landing BID Transportation Committee
Harmar Thompson, Co-Chair, National Landing BID Transportation Committee