



**NATIONAL
LANDING**

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

April 29, 2021

Mr. Chris Slatt
Chair
Arlington County Transportation Commission
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chair Slatt and Members of the Transportation Commission,

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 to offer support for the proposed Arlington County Vision Zero Action Plan. This letter also reflects testimony the BID provided at last month's Transportation Commission hearing on April 1, 2021.

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

**NATIONAL LANDING
BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT**

2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 205
Arlington, VA 22202
nationallanding.org

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 written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

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