



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

www.alexandriava.gov

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

September 21, 2022

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for the FY 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its September 21 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse a grant application for funding up to \$300,000 through the FY 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for a feasibility study of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over I-395 from the redeveloped Landmark Mall site, the future site of West End Alexandria, to neighborhoods to the west.

The Transportation Commission supports staff's proposal to request funding to conduct a feasibility study for this bridge. I-395 is a significant barrier, especially to those with no or limited access to a vehicle. A bicycle and pedestrian bridge in this area was envisioned in the update to the Landmark-Van Dorn Corridor Plan as a connection to provide neighborhoods to the west of I-395 more direct access to jobs, amenities, and the transit center that will be available at the redeveloped Landmark Mall site. It is recommended in the 2022 Transportation Long Range Plan and is consistent with the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan and the Environmental Action Plan. A feasibility study would help the City understand the next steps for providing this bridge and, if a bridge is deemed feasible, make the City more competitive in applying for additional grant funding for design and construction.

The Transportation Commission understands the RCP grant program requires a 20% local match, and that if the City's grant request is awarded, the match would be up to \$60,000. The match would be funded through the City's Transportation Project Planning Capital Improvement Project.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff's proposal and to provide its endorsement to Council.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzalez

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Josh Baker, General Manager and CEO, DASH
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning
Megan Oleynik, Transportation Planning