



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.
Secretary of Transportation

July 10, 2014

Ms. Sharon Bulova
Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

Mr. Jay Fisette
Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chairman Fisette and Chairman Bulova:

I am writing in response to the letter dated June 10, 2014 in which you requested that the Commonwealth of Virginia consider funding the proposed Columbia Pike Streetcar project. The Commonwealth is committed to enhancing opportunities to improve regional mobility and economic development through multimodal transportation solutions. Fairfax County and Arlington County have been at the forefront of these efforts through coordinated transportation and land use planning, including the development of the Columbia Pike Streetcar Project.

The Columbia Pike corridor currently has the highest transit ridership within the Commonwealth for a corridor without fixed-guideway service. When implemented, the Columbia Pike Streetcar project would provide high-capacity transit service for over 42,800 users each day in 2035. Arlington County's ridership forecasts demonstrate that implementation of a seamless streetcar system between Columbia Pike and Crystal City will provide significantly more mobility benefits than enhanced bus service, to the long-term benefit of Northern Virginia's overall transportation network. Additionally, the project will generate \$3.2 to \$4.4 billion in economic benefits to Fairfax and Arlington Counties, compared to only \$1.0 to \$1.4 billion for adding enhanced bus service. The streetcar project provides a sound example of leveraging transportation investment to enhance economic competitiveness and provide access for residents of the DC metropolitan area to reach employment opportunities in Virginia.

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The Commonwealth is committed to supporting the Columbia Pike project as a funding partner. By committing state funds to the project at a level that will enable the project to be constructed without FTA New Starts funding, we believe we can expedite the project schedule, thus reducing the project cost. Additionally this will allow the Commonwealth to accelerate the benefits generated by the project that will accrue to the state and local economies.

In the Final FY2015-FY2020 Six Year Improvement Program, the Commonwealth has programmed \$216.5 million in new funding for fixed guideway projects, including Virginia Beach Light Rail and Arlington / Fairfax Streetcar. It is anticipated that up to \$65 million of these funds will be available to fund the Columbia Pike Streetcar project. Additionally, the project would be eligible for capital funding assistance under the state's current transit capital matching ratios. Based on the County's preliminary cost estimates, the project may be eligible to receive up to 30% in matching funds under this current formula.

The actual amount and timing of these funds will be subject to further refinement as the project moves forward in design and construction. We request that the your staff work with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to put together a milestone schedule that would outline the steps needed to move the project forward and execute a grant agreement.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions. You can also contact Jennifer Mitchell, Director of DRPT, for additional information about next steps. We look forward to working with Fairfax County and Arlington County to deliver this important project to the Northern Virginia region.

Sincerely,



Aubrey L. Layne