



February 15, 2025

Kyle Kling ([kkling@arlingtonva.us](mailto:kkling@arlingtonva.us))  
Arlington County, Department of Environmental Services (DES)  
2100 Clarendon Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Kyle,

We want to commend the Department of Environmental Services (DES) team for their remarkable efforts in navigating the complexities of this project, from initiating the NEPA process in 2021 to fully securing over \$57M in funding. As a future user CC2DCA, we value the opportunity to participate in this public engagement period to highlight the design considerations that will make this project successful.

As the first pedestrian bridge from a major airport to a downtown 'main street', we join other stakeholders in believing that CC2DCA's design must aim for design excellence and embrace **iconic and modern architecture to become an enduring landmark** that enhances accessibility and elevates Arlington County as a national leader in innovative urban infrastructure. Some key points we want to make:

- **Pedestrian-Centric Design:** CC2DCA's bridge deck design should be inviting as a well-lit, landscaped connection incorporating a continuous, articulated canopy, and seating/ viewing areas. Given the limitations of a 20' wide bridge, the design should prioritize pedestrian safety, comfort, and ease of use while accommodating other users. If space will not allow for the separation of pedestrians and cyclists, we recommend cyclists be required to dismount on bridge. We want to emphasize the importance of a canopy over the bridge. If you are considering using the bridge in inclement weather or a hot August day, you want protection from the elements. A canopy will increase usage and provide a bigger payoff for multi-modal transportation.
- **Iconic Modern Architecture and Contiguous Facility:** Arlington County has a goal of being a walkable community and to increase multi-modal usage. In order for a project to have the full impact, people need to WANT to use it. A bridge that quickly becomes an eyesore, is not conducive to drawing people away from automobiles. CC2DCA's design should connect Crystal City and DCA as one contiguous, seamless facility with iconic architecture - a striking, modern design that builds civic pride. This project should also be designed to integrate well with adjacent transportation facilities, offering safe and convenient connections for users to the planned National Landing Station, the Mount Vernon Trailhead, Metro, and DCA.

We have an opportunity to provide Arlington County with an incredible asset that will last for generations. We strongly encourage DES to design a functional and inviting bridge that will be a draw to community members and tourists alike.

We are extremely excited about the possibility of such an important new transportation link. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on design priorities. By focusing on user experience and delivering an iconic design that fosters civic pride, CC2DCA will not only serve its practical purpose but will exemplify the area's identity as a vibrant and accessible urban hub.

Sincerely,



Kateri Garcia, President  
Arlington Ridge CA



Eric Cassel, President  
Crystal City CA