



March 14, 2021

Dan Reinhard
VDOT P.E., Project Manager
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

RE: Livability22202 Comments on VDOT's Feasibility Study of Route 1

Dear Dan,

At the March 3 Public Information meeting, VDOT presented 3 options for Route 1: no build, the CCSP ideas, and an at-grade construction. You asked for public comment by March 15. This letter constitutes the comments of the Livability22202 Route 1 working group representing the 3 civic associations in 22202: Arlington Ridge, Aurora Highlands, and Crystal City.

During your presentation, you stressed that project staff need to balance competing goals, such as maintenance of through traffic vs. pedestrian safety, and then refine the preliminary concepts accordingly before making any recommendation. **From our perspective, there's no apparent full at-grade configuration that will provide both adequate safety for east-west walking and biking and prevent excessive traffic from diverting onto parallel streets.** If either build concept is recommended in the end, the community would prefer some or all of the CCSP options. We recognize that the CCSP alternative in this study may not address other concerns about aesthetics and development potential, and we reiterate our hope that a future study formally considers a wider range of alternatives for a longer portion of this corridor, as a more holistic corridor plan may better balance all of the competing needs. It is obvious however that should a decision be made to move forward with the CCSP or at-grade options, we would want to engage in a fuller consideration of the details.

Any changes on Route 1 will be with us for the next 50 years. As a result, we owe it to the future generations of people that live and work in Arlington to get it right. Creating intersections that place pedestrians at risk is contrary to the initial study charge as well as the direction of Arlington's [Vision Zero](#) effort. The problems noted in earlier discussions (speeding, safety, and the absence of enforcement) have not been addressed. The likelihood of resources to quickly remediate any problems with the at-grading effort are likely to be severely limited, so little remedial efforts would be possible.

To further the conversation, we are attaching more detailed comments on topics from your presentation on March 3. We also refer you to our [prior letter](#) and [appendices](#) for additional information on our ideas.

We look forward to continuing dialogs with VDOT staff and consultants on this project and to seeing the outcome of your detailed concept designs and Measurements of Effectiveness analyses of the alternative concepts. Meanwhile we continue to support following the plans in the Crystal City Sector Plan that create an urban boulevard along Route 1 while maintaining its elevation above both 15th Street South and 18th Street South.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Mike Pickford, President
Arlington Ridge CA

Scott Miles, President
Aurora Highlands CA

Carol Fuller, President
Crystal City CA

cc: County Board Members
Dennis Leach, Director, DES
Bob Duffy, Planning Director, Community Planning Housing and Development

Attachment: Detailed Comments