

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City



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October 13, 2016

Founded 1923

Chair

Nancy J. MacWood

Amanda Murphy, Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Railroad Administration

Vice-Chair

Stephen Hansen

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary

Jim Nathanson

Dear Ms. Murphy:

Treasurer

Carol F. Aten

We are pleased to provide the following comments on the Long Bridge EIS Scoping Process. These comments are consistent with issues identified in a letter to the District of Columbia's program manager, Ms. Anna Chamberlin, at a more preliminary stage of the analysis. These earlier comments are attached. Our comments today also have been transmitted separately to the District Department of Transportation.

Trustees

George Clark

Dorothy Douglas

Monte Edwards

Alma Gates

Erik Hein

Larry Hargrove

Kathy Henderson

George Idelson

Caroline Petti

Elizabeth Purcell

Laura M. Richards, Esq.

Marilyn J. Simon

Pat Tiller

Frank Vespe

Bill Wright

We are keenly aware that this study is being done at the same time as there are several other major rail studies underway, which also are looking at the use of the Long Bridge and the approaches to it from Union Station, the Virginia Avenue Tunnel and Alexandria VA. In this context, we have concerns as to how those studies are being coordinated among the several sponsors, which include the Federal Railroad Administration, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Amtrak, and certain civic and local development interests interested in restoring Maryland Avenue to its original right of way. Chief among these issues is the current and future use of the Long Bridge, the technical and functional capacity of the Bridge, and the capacity constraints of the Bridge and its approaches. As is noted in comments that are attached for your consideration, there is inconsistent information among the several studies on these "facts" and there are indications that not all major stakeholders are always involved in the relevant studies¹. These inconsistencies and

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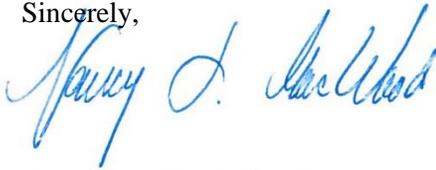
info@committeeof100.net

¹ Currently, we know of the following studies, in addition to the Long Bridge Study, that are looking at some of the same trackage and access: three separate studies involving Union Station and two of these involve multimodal access to the Station, one involves rail access; the District's State Rail Plan; the VDRPT and FRA's Southeast High Speed Rail Study: Richmond to Washington, DC; on-going engineering studies for the VRE on access to DC. There also have been a number of recent studies covering part or all of the same real estate including: the VDRPT's 2006 Washington DC to *Richmond Three Track Feasibility Study*, the *VRE 2040 System Plan*; and the MARC Growth and Investment Plan.

coordination issues pose a major impediment to an effective study, and we urge you to work with partner agencies in trying to reconcile these matters.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment and look forward to working with you throughout the study. Please contact Monte Edwards at 202-543-3504 or Monte.Edwards@verizon.net or Sarah Campbell at 202-841-6272 or sccampbell@verizon.net if you have specific questions or other concerns.

Sincerely,



Nancy MacWood, President

Attachments (2):

Letter to Chamberlin

Committee of 100 Comments

Cc: Councilmember Cheh
Director Dormsjo
By email to: info @longbridgeproject.com