

March 25, 2019

Mr. Mark Schwartz
Arlington County Manager
Via e-mail: mschwartz@arlingtonva.us

RE: FY2020 Budget Proposal

Committee Members

Eric Goldstein, Chair
Chris Yarie, Vice Chair
Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary
John Armstrong
Ian Blackwell
Jim Feaster
Gail Ginsburg
Eric Goodman
Tom Kornis
Leeann Sinpatanasakul
Andrea Walker

Dear Mr. Schwartz,

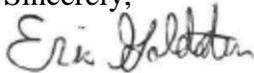
I am writing to you today on behalf of and at the direction of the county Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) regarding the proposed FY 2020 Arlington County Budget. In particular, the PAC encourages you to work with the County Board to avoid the need to implement your option for additional reductions related to the elimination of the Associate Planner position in the Transportation Planning Team of the Transportation Planning & Capital Projects Management Bureau.

The elimination of this position will have a direct impact on the effectiveness of the PAC. The PAC works closely with many members of the Transportation Planning Team, including both of our staff liaisons. The planners in this group assist the committee in understanding both project proposals and proposed policy changes. Without their expertise, we will be less able to effectively consider and provide meaningful feedback on an appropriate timetable on projects.

Beyond the impact on the PAC directly, this elimination would reduce planning capacity on county projects and directly impact the County's ability to effectively improve and maintain our transportation network. Given the transformative period the County is currently in, this reduction would be particularly problematic. With the potential arrival of Amazon will come additional significant transportation projects needing planners to scope and shape. Likewise, with the imminent adoption of the updated Bicycle Element of the Master Transportation Plan and the potential adoption of Vision Zero, we will need staff support to change the way we plan and utilize our transportation network.

While we understand you do not recommend this cut this year, and are simply providing it to the Board as a potential option, we wanted to take this opportunity to highlight for you its potential significant negative effects.

Sincerely,



Eric Goldstein
Chair, Pedestrian Advisory Committee