

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Delegate Jared Solomon
House Office Building, Room 222
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Letter of Support for the First Step for MARC Commuters Act

Dear Delegate Solomon,

On behalf of the Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard business community, the Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) expresses its support for the *First Step for MARC Commuters Act* that initiates the conversations and negotiations necessary to launch pilot run-through service of Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) trains into Virginia.

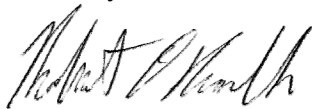
The downtown district of National Landing, which encompasses the Arlington neighborhoods of Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard, is a major regional employment center and mix-use community. Today's 50,000 jobs and 26,000 residents will grow substantially over the course of the next 10-12 years as the area welcomes new businesses, including Amazon, and an additional 6,500 planned residential units.

Though the area is already served by regional rail systems, including WMATA and Virginia Railway Express (VRE), providing new MARC service will greatly enhance interstate connectivity enabling access to both jobs and affordable housing opportunities for Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia residents.

The proposed pilot and longer-term plans for run-through service efficiently leverage existing rail infrastructure as well as planned investments such as the replacement of Long Bridge anticipated in the late 2020s.

The *First Step for MARC Commuters Act* initiates the process towards realizing a bold vision for a truly regional commuter rail system and the Crystal City BID supports its passage.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Mandle
Chief Operating Officer
Crystal City Business Improvement District

CC Tracy Gabriel, President & Executive Director, Crystal City BID
Andy VanHorn, Chair, Crystal City BID