



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

May 15, 2018

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa)
3040 Williams Dr, Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22031

The City of Falls Church Environmental Sustainability Council supports the West Falls Church and Joint Campus Revitalization District Multimodal Transportation Project (the "Project"). The Project will support economic growth in this regional activity center. The project location, less than ½ mile from the West Falls Church Metro station, increases the walkability of the area through its addition of traffic signals at Metro Access Road & Haycock, a HAWK signal crossing Haycock, and a new traffic signal on VA-7 west of Haycock. Walkability is a major demand trend among successful commercial development areas.

Up to 1.5 million square feet of development is planned to accompany the construction of a new George Mason High School at the project site. The Project will ensure easier access to such development from surrounding neighborhoods and transit. The Project will also benefit students of the new high school by providing them with better access to the campus site and encouraging them to use alternative transportation modes, such as walking or biking, in a safer environment.

Further, the Project will provide increased transportation options and alternatives to single-occupant vehicle travel. Multimodal investments in this area will be especially effective because they will improve access to the West Falls Church Metro and current and future transit options on VA-7, reducing congestion on Broad St/VA-7 and I-66. The increased space efficiency of pedestrian and bicycle facilities is a cost-efficient way to support an interconnected network of transportation options. The existing West Falls Church metro station is underutilized, and this project will leverage its available capacity by connecting potential riders with the station. Increasing transportation options and encouraging alternatives to single-occupant vehicle travel has additional benefits to regional air quality and citizen health.

Due to the Project's prospects for encouraging additional economic growth in the city; its improvements to citizen access to sustainable transportation alternatives to single-driver cars; its benefits to the both the economic development component of the George Mason High School property and the students who will attend the new school; and its prospective improvements to regional air quality and citizen health, the Falls Church Environmental Sustainability Council strongly endorses the proposed Project and encourages the NVTa to approve the grant application.

Sincerely,

Cory Firestone Weiss, Chair
Environmental Sustainability Council
City of Falls Church
300 Park Avenue,
Falls Church, VA 22046