

MOTION:

SECOND:

**RE: AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE
LONG BRIDGE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PREFERRED
ALTERNATIVE "ACTION ALTERNATIVE A" ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIR**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the Long Bridge Project consists of potential improvements to the bridge and related railroad infrastructure located between the Rosslyn (RO) Interlocking near Long Bridge Park in Arlington, Virginia and the L'Enfant (LE) Interlocking near 10th Street SW in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT); and

WHEREAS, the DEIS has been released for public comment; and

WHEREAS, "Action Alternative A", identified in the DEIS as the preferred alternative, will fulfill the purpose and need of the Long Bridge project to expand capacity of rail services and the regional transportation network, while minimizing costs, construction time and impacts to the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, improvements to the Long Bridge to provide additional rail capacity between Virginia and Washington, DC was identified in the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) System Plan 2040 as a key element in service expansion; and

WHEREAS, planned VRE service expansion is critical to congestion mitigation and the region's mobility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby authorize the Executive Director to submit a letter of support for "Action Alternative A", the identified preferred alternative in the Long Bridge Draft Environmental Impact Statement on behalf of the Chair.

Votes:

Ayes:

Abstain:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Alternate Present Not Voting:

Absent from Meeting:



October 3, 2019

Ms. Anna Chamberlin
Long Bridge Project
55 m Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

RE: Long Bridge Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Chamberlin:

On behalf of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), I am writing to you to support the Long Bridge Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identification of **Action Alternative A** as the preferred alternative. PRTC is a regional transit Commission comprised of the Counties of Prince William, Stafford, Spotsylvania, and the Cities of Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the co-owner of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) commuter rail.

On September 5, 2019, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process of evaluating potential environmental and human impacts of the Long Bridge Project alternatives. In this document, the Long Bridge preferred alternative, Action Alternative A, will fulfill the purpose and need of the Long Bridge project to expand capacity of rail services and the regional transportation network while minimizing costs, construction time and impacts to the surrounding area.

Construction of a new, two-track bridge would also align with station and rail infrastructure improvements by the Commonwealth of Virginia and VRE to enhance rail system capacity at L'Enfant Plaza, Crystal City and along the I-95 corridor designed to expand the number of commuter and intercity trains by 2040. Furthermore, the parallel bridge configuration proposed under Action Alternative A would reduce disruption to ongoing VRE services and adjacent transportation links during construction, which are essential to the mobility of Northern Virginia and the region.

PRTC strongly supports the Long Bridge Project to expand commuter rail service, to improve intercity connections throughout the Commonwealth to Northern Virginia, to enhance economic connectivity of the region as well as to provide a vital multimodal link across the Potomac River. This project is consistent with VRE's System Plan and with the Commission's strategic goals to increase the capacity of our regional transit network.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the draft environmental impact statement and look forward to issuance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.

Best regards,

Ruth Anderson
Chair

DRAFT