

October 28, 2019

Ms. Anna Chamberlin, AICP
Long Bridge Project
55 M Street, SE -- Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003-3515
info@longbridgeproject.com

Dear Ms. Chamberlin:

On behalf of the board of directors and members of Virginians for High Speed Rail (VHSR), I am submitting our public comments pertaining to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Long Bridge expansion project.

Simply put, this project is vital to the sustainability, connectivity, and mobility of millions of Virginians who travel along the I-95 corridor every day. VHSR encourages this project to move forward in an expedited manner.

We strongly support "Action Alternative A" to expand the crossing to four tracks because this alternative is 32 percent cheaper than Alternative B, it can be completed over 3 years sooner, and it has far less impact on our environment. We also believe that there needs to be a continued effort to avoid natural and community resources in the project area where feasible.

Expanding the Long Bridge will allow for the addition of 12 Virginia Amtrak Regional trains, 66 commuter rail trains, eight Southeast Regional trains; adding to the 24 Amtrak trains that use Long Bridge and the Washington to Richmond corridor today. These additional intercity and commuter rail trains will take over 689 million passenger miles off our roads, eliminate the need to burn 20.2 million gallons of gas, and prevent the release of over 180,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year. This project will also greatly benefit our economy. The construction of this project will generate \$2.9 billion in economic benefits for the Commonwealth and over \$306 million annually in total output from the increased intercity and commuter rail service which will create/sustain thousands of jobs.

Our primary requests are to make sure that the new Long Bridge corridor is engineered for electrification and to provide cost estimates to electrify the segment in the final EIS.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Regards,



Danny Plaucher
Executive Director