



McLean Citizens Association
PO Box 273
McLean, VA 22101

February 17, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: Support for Grant for Reconstruction of the George Washington Memorial Parkway

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the President of the McLean Citizens Association, a non-profit organization representing the interests of residents living in the McLean area since 1914, I am writing to express our strong support for the award of grants to the National Park Service (NPS) under the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program and/or the Nationally Significant Federal Land and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program, both of which, we understand, are authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015. The grants would be used by the recipient for critical reconstruction of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GW Parkway) under the North Section Rehabilitation Project. If funded, this project will reconstruct a section of the GW Parkway from Spout Run Parkway to Interstate 495.

This historic section of the GW Parkway is heavily used by residents of the McLean Area and neighboring areas of northern Virginia and Maryland who commute into Washington, DC and to Arlington and Alexandria, Virginia. Additionally, the GW Parkway serves as a critical access road for visitors who want to visit the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and the other scenic and historic sites along the GW Parkway. We are informed that, currently, the GW Parkway facilitates the travel of more than 33 million vehicles per year, with the northernmost section experiencing the heaviest traffic. The condition of this stretch of the GW Parkway has been deteriorating, and urgent action is needed to perform reconstruction of this portion of the road system.

We understand that, if the project is funded, the NPS plans to repave nearly eight miles of road along the GW Parkway, repair storm water management systems to prevent erosion at drainage outfalls, and rehabilitate two historic, scenic overlooks. Numerous media outlets have

reported that this section of the GW Parkway has experienced critical infrastructure failure in the last few years, including several very dangerous sinkholes, such as the one that occurred in 2019, which resulted in \$1.6 million in emergency work and in highly disruptive travel restrictions exceeding 100 days. The NPS has advised that the project will also include replacing guardrails, repairing walls, constructing new curbs, making needed safety improvements, and building emergency turnarounds along the north end of the Parkway. In addition, work on the north section of the Parkway will address a significant part of the National Capital Region's maintenance backlog, which we are informed totals \$1.7 billion, including over \$395 million for the Parkway alone.

The GW Parkway North Section Rehabilitation Project will improve a critical link in the National Capital Region's transportation network while preserving the historical and cultural characteristics that make the Parkway one of the most scenic roadways in the country. These proposed improvements will increase the safety of visitors while significantly extending the life of the Parkway.

We understand the grant program is highly competitive. We strongly endorse the NPS GW Parkway reconstruction project for approval by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Dale M. Stein
President, McLean Citizens Association
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