

Subject: ANCC access road  
From: Aurora Highlands <ahcapresident@gmail.com>  
Date: 6/11/18, 10:39 PM  
To: CountyManager@arlingtonva.us, CountyBoard <countyboard@arlingtonva.us>

Dear Mr. Schwartz and members of the County Board,

The Aurora Highlands Civic Association requests that Arlington County honor its commitment beginning in the 2015-2024 CIP (reaffirmed in the FY 2017-2026 CIP) to connect the east and west communities of Arlington separated by I-395, via the Army Navy Country Club Emergency Access Drive by 2023.

This Emergency Access Drive is a critical piece of infrastructure that serves several purposes:

1. Emergency Response – currently, there is a choke point at S. Joyce Street. Should Joyce Street become blocked (due to fire or a suspicious package), the county is effectively cut in half. It is hard to get fire trucks, police, ambulances, etc. from one side of I-395 to the other without going all the way to S. Glebe road.
2. School Walking Routes – Hoffman-Boston is currently an under-enrolled school and will likely gain students from this area due to boundary changes that will take place in the fall of 2019. Opening up this walking route will save transportation costs and make it safe for more students to walk to school. We also wrote you about this during the 2017-2026 CIP process in our request to complete this project by 2020.
3. Safe Pedestrian/Biking Routes – the current pedestrian/biking connections between Columbia Pike and Pentagon City/Crystal City are dangerous. Since the land swap deal between the county and the U.S. Army has fallen through, there is significant uncertainty as to whether these connections can be improved at all. The Emergency Access Drive may be our only hope for a safe pedestrian/biking route connecting the communities divided by I-395.

Under the proposed new CIP, these significant needs remain unaddressed until 2030 at the earliest and are only partially funded (15%). Such action is unacceptable. While we appreciate that County is under a cash crunch due to resource constraints that result from Metro funding and decreased NVTC projects, this is not a vanity project. This will make a big difference in the lives of many Arlingtonians that should not get kicked down the road from 2023 to 2030.

Sincerely,

Natasha Atkins  
President, AHCA