

June 13, 2025

Dear Chair Karantonis and Members of the Arlington County Board:

I write on behalf of the Yorktown Civic Association to request that Arlington County analyze and draft a brief report addressing whether Arlington County ownership of Langston Boulevard would help achieve the goals of Plan Langston Boulevard more effectively than ownership under the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

As the implementation stage of Plan Langston Boulevard continues, and as development projects proceed, residents in the Yorktown Civic Association are reminded that transportation and safety concerns need to be addressed. Twelve other civic associations along the corridor and the Langston Boulevard Alliance share similar concerns and have discussed them at length in two recent meetings held this year so far. The desire to increase residents' safety and address traffic concerns have also intensified questions over Langston Boulevard's ownership.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the status quo can be improved. What would help clarify this matter is an analysis and report from staff that includes lessons learned when Arlington County took control from VDOT of some Arlington streets, including Columbia Pike and Fairfax Drive. In addition, County staff's overall cost analysis would provide insights into the tradeoffs and opportunity costs of VDOT versus Arlington County ownership of Langston Boulevard.

In summary, we would encourage the Arlington County staff address the following topics as part of its analysis and reporting:

- **The financial cost of county ownership**, including whether ownership will incur monetary burdens on county residents and, if so, approximately how much.
- **Optimal integrated transportation planning**, both long-range and short-range.
- **Ease of making safety planning**, both along the entire corridor (e.g., lowering speed limits, re-engineering intersections), and in the vicinity of upcoming development projects.
- **More informed funding cycles**, while recognizing the County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) must be a substantial contributor to such funding and improvements.
- **Financial and other data that illustrate the approximate percentage share of costs** from VDOT and the County in the past, and views on how this might change,

broadly speaking. This would include the expected County staff time in coordinating multiple inputs, meetings, etc. with relevant stakeholders. It also would include ongoing maintenance, such as snow plowing and routine repairs.

- **Complications that can arise**, especially in places where a county-owned road intersects with a state-owned or federally-owned road.
- **Lessons learned** from the County's assuming ownership of Columbia Pike and Fairfax Drive; and
- Any other data that help to illustrate the above issues.

As civic associations along the corridor and the Langston Boulevard Alliance continue to emphasize pedestrian safety and transportation challenges on Langston Boulevard, we appreciate the County staff's analysis and reporting on the potential ownership of Langston Boulevard question.

Thank you,

Zachary Newkirk,

President, Yorktown Civic Association

cc:

Mark Schwartz, County Manager

Langston Boulevard Alliance Board of Directors