



February 8, 2023

Mayor Stoney
900 E. Broad Street, Suite 201
Richmond, VA 23219

Bobby Vincent, Director of DPW
900 E Broad St, Suite 700
Richmond, VA 23219

Ray Roakes, Secretary
City of Richmond Urban Design Committee
900 E. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Consultation on Preliminary Design for the Mayo Bridge Replacement Project

Dear Mayor Stoney, Director Vincent, and members of the Urban Design Committee:

The Partnership for Smarter Growth joins the Historic Richmond Foundation in calling for a comprehensive community engagement process for the Mayo Bridge project. Mayo's Bridge is significant culturally and historically and acts as an important connector in the community between Shockoe Bottom, Mayo's Island, and Manchester. This bridge highlights the Richmond of the past and its restoration or replacement is an opportunity to increase livability and sustainability for Manchester and Shockoe Bottom.

Our comments and concerns for this project are as follows:

- As we understand it, this project will utilize federal funds and will therefore be subject to the Section 106 process. This bridge is also a contributing structure to the Manchester area on the National Register of Historic Places and showcases important design and historic connections in the City of Richmond. This project and its subsequent new design and closures, will have a large impact on the surrounding community, particularly businesses along Hull Street. We ask that the Section 106 process be initiated as soon as

possible and community needs and involvement are included and considered throughout the project. We also request consulting party status.

- In keeping with the multi-modal history of this bridge and its role in connecting Manchester, Shockoe Bottom, and the future Mayo Island park, the new bridge should prioritize safe walking and biking. We recommend:
 - One lane for cars in each direction
 - Wide protected bike lanes
 - Wider sidewalks with extra spaces for fishing and observation
 - A roundabout on Mayo Island as proposed in past city plans

- Should the studies and Section 106 consultation process determine that there should be two vehicle lanes in each direction, we recommend that one of those lanes in each direction be a dedicated bus lane or, at minimum, peak hour dedicated bus lanes.

We hope that the City and VDOT will share more information about this project, will follow the required Section 106 consulting process, and will include a full public process. Again, we request that PSG be included as a consulting party in the Section 106 process.

The replacement of Mayo's Bridge is much more than a transportation project. It is a placemaking project and a chance to make some real improvements that will benefit the community for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stewart Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stewart Schwartz

President