



October 31, 2019

RE: FAST-41

To whom it may concern,

The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park, a project of Ward 8-based nonprofit Building Bridges Across the River and the District of Columbia government, will be Washington, D.C.'s first elevated public park. Located on the piers of the old 11<sup>th</sup> Street freeway bridge spanning the Anacostia River, the Bridge Park will be a new venue for healthy recreation, environmental education and the arts. Park programming designed in collaboration with local residents includes: an environmental education center; outdoor amphitheater; urban agriculture; public art that tells the rich history of the region; café; and intergenerational play space. Beyond supporting the community's physical and environmental health, the Bridge Park also seeks to become an anchor for equitable development in our nation's capital. The park is currently undergoing environmental assessment, permitting, right of way and continued design work. The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park is expected to open to the public in 2013.

Based on an economic report by the independent firm HR&A Advisors, it is estimated that this project will spark an annual economic impact between \$73MM – 208MM. The park has already secured over \$57MM through its *Equitable Development Plan* which includes housing, workforce development and small business strategies targeting residents in historic Anacostia and Fairlawn neighborhoods.

Given the Bridge Park's significant estimated beneficial impact and its goal of connecting underinvested neighborhoods to jobs and economic opportunity, the Bridge Park would greatly benefit from being included in "FAST-41" to ensure coordinated, project-specific timetable for all required environmental review and permitting actions. The project is currently coordinating with several federal agencies including National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Highway Administration, National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

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