



March 14, 2016

Ms. Katharine Kelley  
Acting Superintendent  
Arlington National Cemetery  
1 Memorial Drive  
Arlington, VA 22211

Dear Superintendent Kelley:

Thank you for your March 11, 2016 letter re-affirming the agreement between Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) and Arlington County (County) on the realignment alternative referred to as "ACO 3.3" before beginning the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the realignment of Columbia Pike and reconfiguration of the ramps between Columbia Pike and Route 27 (the "Realignment Project"). I am writing to confirm the additional commitments we discussed at our last meeting that serve as the basis for the County's support for the Army leading this process.

#### NEPA Process and Scope

As we discussed, the Realignment Project NEPA documentation will be a collaborative effort between all of the Cooperating Agencies. The Army has made a commitment to gain the concurrence of all Cooperating Agencies at each major step in the NEPA process, including Public Scoping, Alternatives Analysis, Preferred Alternative, Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Final EA. Recognizing the Army's desire to complete the NEPA process in March 2017, Arlington County will provide the County staff resources necessary to timely complete the process. Understanding that the County and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) are the property owners and entities responsible for the existing and future road network, and that FHWA will be the project manager for the Realignment Project, and in so doing must issue a finding based off of the environmental review; the concurrence of all of the Cooperating Agencies is critical for the success of this process.

Further, we have agreed that the scope of the Realignment Project NEPA analysis will not address specific future uses of any properties that may be exchanged pursuant to a land exchange agreement between the Army, County and VDOT ("Land Exchange Agreement"). For the purposes of the EA, it is agreed that the use of the land south of Columbia Pike will be "County and/or public uses", as provided in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of the Army and the County, dated January 10, 2013, and Public Law 113-291.

#### Environmental Documentation for Land Exchange

The Army acknowledges that the *Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Arlington National Cemetery Real Property Master Plan*, published in September 2014, conducted a NEPA analysis of Alternative 4, which included a realignment of the road network consistent with ACO 3.3 and determined it had no significant impacts as to many of the identified impact categories. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was not issued for Alternative 4 because "the realignment of Columbia Pike and ramps between Columbia Pike and Route 27 is not sufficiently defined to determine the associated travel impacts...Therefore, changes at the intersection of Columbia Pike and South Joyce

Street and the associated roadways will be analyzed as part of a project-level NEPA evaluation when sufficient information is available.” The Army agrees that the Realignment Project EA will serve as the project-level NEPA evaluation, and will satisfy all Army requirements necessary to permit the Army to execute a land exchange agreement without the need for any further NEPA analysis and documentation.

Your countersignature to this letter will signify our mutual commitment to move this important project forward. I look forward to meeting with you periodically in the future, as needed, to co-navigate this important project to completion.

Sincerely,



Mark Schwartz  
County Manager

AGREED:

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Katharine Kelley  
Title: Acting Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_