

2.1 Vision Statement (10/16/2009)

Crystal City is one of Arlington's principal transit-oriented urban centers with great proximity to the Nation's Capital just across the Potomac River. Today, its mixed-use environment of office, hotel, residential, and retail buildings is a place where people come to live, work, play, or shop. Adjacent to National Airport and featuring an extensively used transit network, Crystal City offers immediate access and mobility within the region and beyond. While four decades of mixed-use development have made it a largely successful urban center, Crystal City is envisioned to grow carefully and responsibly into a more complete urban community with active, pedestrian-focused streets, high-quality architecture and open spaces, and a rich urban and civic character.

Crystal City's mix of housing, office, retail, hotel, cultural, and civic uses will be enhanced. This will be a place full of life in daytime and nighttime hours where people will want to see and be seen. Crystal City will become a community where one may grow up and grow old. It will offer the ability to live-out every stage of life, a place to experience childhood, enjoy the activities of a young adult, work, raise a family, and live comfortably and securely in later years. It will have an extensive, high-quality system of accessible public open spaces which provide a variety of recreational opportunities for the community. A well-defined public and complete street network will be normalized to balance mobility needs while enhancing wayfinding for all. Edged with vibrant street-level retail throughout much of Crystal City, the street network will serve as one component of a fully integrated and accessible multimodal transportation network with a priority of moving people, not vehicles. Conditions will improve along Jefferson Davis Highway to make it an attractive unifying spine rather than the barrier it can be today. In this vision, Crystal City becomes one of the most complete urban centers of a thriving Arlington County and Washington Metropolitan Area.

This statement, and the following Goals and Objectives, has guided and directed planning efforts, and will empower all participants to evaluate by a shared vision the many plans and proposals that will be presented to the Crystal City community, both now and in the future.