

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Akridge Committed to a World Class Soccer Stadium for DC



Side-by-side comparison of the original vision for the D.C. United stadium and the team's current design

(Washington, DC)— For over seven years, Akridge has been one of the biggest supporters of a new D.C. United stadium on Buzzard Point. The team and its fans deserve a new facility, and Buzzard Point offers a tremendous opportunity to create a world class stadium in an up-and-coming, vibrant, urban environment.

Unfortunately, the current stadium design falls woefully short of the original design vision of an urban stadium integrated into the neighborhood. The current design does not include any outward-facing retail and features blank walls around 97 percent of the stadium's perimeter. This design will create uncomfortable and potentially unsafe streets and sidewalks around the stadium, thus restricting economic development in the surrounding neighborhood.

Over the past year, many of the neighboring property owners on Buzzard Point have provided clear, coordinated, and frequent input to D.C. United about these design concerns. We have advocated for a vibrant First Street, SW that would include active retail to enhance not only the neighborhood, but also the game day experience. We have also shown D.C. United ways to modify its plans to improve the urban design. We have asked D.C. United to change its plans in advance of the upcoming zoning hearing so that the team can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its neighbors in support of the stadium design. To date, D.C. United has not made those changes.

Importantly, at no point did Akridge ever condition our support of the stadium design with control of the proposed stadium retail.

Akridge remains supportive of building the right stadium for both D.C. United and the neighborhood on Buzzard Point. The District government has delivered on its commitment to convey the site to the team. It is now time for D.C. United to deliver on its commitment to a quality stadium. The District's investment in this stadium will span generations and it is critical that DC gets the world class stadium it deserves.

### About Akridge

Akridge is a comprehensive real estate services company that has invested in the Washington Metropolitan area for over four decades. It provides acquisitions, design and construction management, development, finance and asset management, leasing, and property management services. For over 40 years, the company has acquired, developed, or entitled more than 14 million square feet of office, industrial flex, residential, retail, and entertainment space. Akridge has another 9 million square feet in its active pipeline, currently manages approximately 3.6 million square feet, and has a portfolio with an estimated value of over \$2.0 billion. Notable projects include the 1-million-square-foot Gallery Place, the internationally recognized Homer Building, and the 3-million-square-foot Burnham Place air rights development project at Union Station. For more information please visit [www.akridge.com](http://www.akridge.com).