

**October 1, 2012 Arlington Bike Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes**

**1. Attendance**

Jakob Wolf-Barnett (Chair), Dana Bres, Eric Goodman, Mike Hanna (E2C2), Dwight Hlustick, Megan Jones, Allen Muchnick, Steve Offutt, Allan Reiter, Chris Slatt (Transportation Commission), Randy Swart

Arlington County/BikeArlington – David Goodman, Dave Kirschner, David Patton, Kevin Stalica, Tim Kelley

Others – Tom Hutchings, Capital Projects Manager, Steve Appel, Leslie Tierstein

**2. Notes** – Notes from the August 2012 meeting were approved. The September 2012 meeting was informal and notes were not taken.

**3. Recognition** – The members and attendees recognized the county staff for their highly appreciated and successful implementation of buffered and green bike lanes at various locations in Arlington County.

**4. Presentation on the North Lynn Street Esplanade and Lee Highway Bike Trail Improvements**

Tom Hutchings, Arlington County Capital Projects Manager on the North Lynn Street, Esplanade and Lee Highway discussed sidewalk improvements along Lynn to the NPS property. This project also includes bike trail improvements along Lee to Oak Street (Oak Street is the first street off Lee to the west/uphill of the Marriott). Study included bike/ped traffic counts. Consultant will submit 60% designs in November. An issue with the Lynn/Lee intersection includes the fact that the NPS property line is just north of the cycle crossing. There is also a small piece of private property between the bike trail and the NPS property to the south of Lynn, complicating planning. The curb cuts and crosswalks at the intersection will be widened. Sidewalk along Lynn above I-66 will be 20 feet wide with a five foot roadway bike lane. The area for bikes waiting to cross Lynn (going uphill) will be wider and will have a metal bar for cyclists to hold while waiting on the light.

The Lynn Street crossing of Lee Highway (northbound) will force the left lane to turn onto Lee by “choking” the crossing on the opposite side of Lee with a nub at the Lynn/Lee (Marriott/NW corner).

The new Custis Trail heading uphill by the Marriott hotel will be 16 feet wide (up from 10 feet). Note: this corrects earlier information from previous ABAC notes. Schedule shows design completion in 2013 followed by construction. The plans include strategies to remove signal cabinets and other boxes from the trail.

More detail is available on the web –

[www.arlingtonva.us/departments/environmentalservices/cpe/caprojects/page63515.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/environmentalservices/cpe/caprojects/page63515.aspx).

The ABAC was in support and there was interest in providing written comments and a letter of support (Jakob will post a draft letter on the ABAC listserv).

There was discussion of a speed study to study the posted speed on Lee Highway in conjunction with going from three lanes to two. At this time, the speed limit on Lee Highway will be 30 mph east of Ft Myer and 40 mph west of Ft Myer. Signs at driveways along the westbound Lee Highway will say "Turning Vehicles yield to Bikes and Pedestrians".

With the wider trail at the entrance to the Marriott front parking lot (the entrance is on Lee Highway), cars may have to stop before crossing the trail and then stop again before turning on to Lee Highway. While the autos at the second stop would be quite visible to cyclists, they might block some of the trail. Tom Hutchings indicated he would approach the management of the Marriott regarding an entrance only option for the west driveway entrance to de-conflict the Lee Highway entrance to the parking area in front of the hotel. At this time, the Marriott has two entrances on Lee Highway (one to the front parking lot and one to the parking garage).

#### **5. Regional – Allen Muchnick**

FABB is having a Fairfax Bike Summit on 27 Oct. BikeArlington will present.

Bicycle Technical Subcommittee of the COG. Toole Design looked at a number of grade crossings along the W&OD. Dave Kirschner reports that the Columbia Pike improvements (near the W&OD crossing) will be done after the underground construction (storm/sanitary sewer) in that area.

#### **6. Arlington Community Ride**

The Arlington Community Ride (AKA Arlington Fun Ride) will be Saturday 6 Oct at Phoenix Bikes in Barcroft Park (4200 South 4 Mile Run Drive, Arlington, VA 22206). Marshals will be needed, reply to Mark Blacknell via PM on the forum. Ride starts at about 8 and will end about 11 am. The main ride will be the Arlington Loop and a shorter ride will also be conducted. Following the rides, there will be raffles and other activities at Phoenix Bikes. *Note (added 10 Oct): The ride was held with large attendance and great weather. A fine time was had by all.*

#### **7. Pedestrian – Eric Goodman**

There was a joint meeting of the ped and bike advisory committees in August with Walter Tejada in August. He is looking for a strategy to improve bike/ped safety. This effort will look at the behavioral issues as well as changes to infrastructure and policy.

#### **8. Transportation Commission Update – Chris Slatt**

Next meeting for the transportation commission will include discussion of the development at the Bergman's site. Arlington County staff indicated that trail details along the Custis (where it turns from the route along I-66 to run along Lee Highway)

would be modified to improve sight lines and other conditions for cyclists. There was discussion of some of the other issues the ABAC identified with the development of the Bergman's site that were identified when developer representatives presented.

#### **9. Meeting Notes – Dana Bres**

We will work to staff the draft meeting notes via the ABAC group site for a quick review of the minutes. Members and presenters were encouraged to amplify notes as appropriate. We would then post the notes to the forum (<http://bikearlingtonforum.com/forum.php>) within 10 days of the meeting.

#### **10. BikeArlington – Tim Kelley**

Two Wheel Tuesday in October will be in Shirlington.

Crystal City Diamond Derby was held on Sat 29 Sep. A fine time was had by all. Tim estimates there was about 120 registered riders and a number of others. The next event will probably be in Spring 2013.

Walk and Bike to School Day will be this Wednesday, 3 October. BikeArlington will be working with Oakcrest.

Lights for Bikes Event will be the day after the time change in November (time change is 4 November 2012). BikeArlington will need volunteers and more information will be posted to the forum. Tim Kelley indicated the locations would probably be in Rosslyn along the trail, along Columbia Pike near the W&OD, and at the intersection of the W&OD and Custis.

#### **11. Staff Reports**

Every month the staff briefs the county board leadership. Recently, they briefed locations for new CaBi locations. Staff will be looking at locations along Columbia Pike.

Bike Planner Tool. Some members report that editing the route planning tool is difficult to use. Chris Slatt has text articles with pictures on his blog at [www.alongthepike.com](http://www.alongthepike.com) to help users edit the information.

Five green bike lanes are on the ground now. They are at:

- EB Military Road at Nellie Custis split (Donaldson Run)
- EB Clarendon Blvd at 15th St split (Court House)
- WB Wilson Blvd at Vietch St intersection (Court House)
- NB N Sycamore St from I-66 WB off-ramp to Washington Blvd (E Falls Church)
- WB 15th St/NB Joyce St at Pentagon City Mall parking garage (Pentagon City)

Covered bike shelters at the Clarendon Metro area are under construction. There will also be a covered bike shelter in Pentagon City.

Joyce Street (Pentagon City) under I-395 is under construction. Completion is anticipated in about a month. There will be wider sidewalks, lighting and ramps and will

be more accommodating to cyclists and pedestrians. The cross section has been designed to accommodate the future street car.

Four Mile Run between Route 1 and the GWMP. The current property owner is designing an interim switchback path to eliminate the “billy goat” trail from the apartment building down to the Four Mile Run Trail. It will be improved when the railroad bridge is demolished and the trail can be expanded to be more accommodating for bicycles. Staff continues to work with the developer to include provisions for bicycles in the interim approach.

The county has two cycletrack projects underway – one along Army-Navy Drive and the other on Clark and Bell in Crystal City.

Washington Boulevard trail design. Arlington County has asked the designers to examine the trail alignment to preserve trees along the path. They hope that a revised alignment that will reduce the number of trees will facilitate community support for this important north-south cycle route.

Dave Kirschner reports that Arlington County will be making ramp improvements along the Rosslyn Circle to make the ramps ADA compliant. This work will be integrated into the other planned improvements in the area.

Shirlington Road road diet project. Concrete work is complete and striping will be occurring soon.

Dave Kirschner met with the manager of the W&OD to eliminate stop signs at the signalized intersections along the W&OD.

## **Trails Report**

Kevin Stalica reports an ongoing effort to remove bollards along the trail system in Arlington. Some bollards will remain at locations where they are necessary to prevent vehicle incursions on the trail.

Arlington County recently completed repaving along the FMR in Shirlington.

Input on trails is always needed and should be sent to [Trails@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Trails@arlingtonva.us)

Washington Blvd crosswalk. The Washington Blvd trail realignment (just south of the Memorial Bridge) and crosswalk installation is essentially complete. This was a National Park Service initiative and was designed and completed by the NPS. The crosswalk was moved about 100 feet further away from the Washington Blvd split. This should help protect trail users. The general consensus among the ABAC members that have seen the site is positive.

## **12. Upcoming Meetings**

At the next meeting, David Goodman will discuss the Pro Walk/Pro Bike Conference

Next meeting will be Monday, 5 November 2012 at 7 pm.

## **13. Membership Focus**

Jakob solicited ideas for strategies to identify ways to improve participation in the ABAC and how to improve membership.

## **14. Vice Chair**

Jakob indicated a need for a Vice Chair of the ABAC and indicated that Megan Jones had agreed to serve in that role. That was met with an enthusiastic endorsement from the members in attendance.