

February 4, 2013 Arlington Bike Advisory Committee Meeting Draft minutes

Jakob Wolf-Barnett (Chair), Ed Blanton, Dana Bres, Eric Goodman, Dwight Hlustick, Elizabeth Kiker, Allen Muchnick, Steve Offutt, Allan Reiter, Tim Rosato, Alex Sanders, Chris Slatt, Eric Swanson, Mark Williams

Arlington County/Bike Arlington - David Goodman, Dave Kirschner, David Patton, Kevin Stalica, Tim Kelley

Note: Because the National Bike Summit will be March 4-6, the Arlington BAC meeting will shift to Monday, 11 March.

January Meeting Summary and Adoption of Minutes – Minutes of the January 2013 meeting were approved.

Staff Meeting Minutes

Bike Arlington Update –Tim Kelley (submitted in advance)

PAL: As mentioned last month, the Arlington County Commuter Services Be a Pal – Share Our Streets campaign received some elevated attention county-wide as it went out in the Jan/Feb Citizen Newsletter as the main centerfold! (see pages 6/7).

Additionally, a media “toolkit” has been made available on CommuterPage so that the logo and content are available for easy download as a simple resource for sharing the message beyond Arlington County.

I'd like to add that we would like to get the PAL message out through as many channels as possible. We are really trying to ramp up the campaign to complement Chairman Tejada's Moving Forward Together initiative. Newsletters are a great way to get this information out – so we wrote up a sample blurb that can be included in any newsletter or other marketing materials to a) briefly explain what PAL is all about AND b) encourage others to share the message. If you notice opportunities where PAL messages/images can be promoted or cross-marketed with some of your efforts, please include the text below.

It's clear that more people in Arlington are getting around by bike and by foot! This is good news, but it does come with one small caveat – and that is whether we're biking, walking or driving, we all have to use a skill that we learned as children: SHARING. But don't fret, we've got an easy solution for you: Be a PAL! Not in just the friendly neighbor kind of way, but by being Predictable, Alert and Lawful! When you're a PAL you're not only benefitting from a more enjoyable journey, but you're helping all of Arlington in “Moving Forward Together” by ensuring the safety of all road users!

Because sharing is so important (and not just sharing the streets), [Arlington County Commuter Services](#) has made it easy for you to share the PAL messaging with this handy **toolkit**. The toolkit has downloadable images, tips and messaging you can pull directly from the [CommuterPage](#) website to use in your own materials. What are you waiting for? Start sharing!

Mardi Gras Ride: Will be on Fat Tuesday (Feb 12, 2013) at 8 pm. Contact Tim Kelly or follow the announcements on the forum.

Capital Bikeshare: Currently, final station location selections are being made and permits are being applied for. 32 stations are planned for installation in 2013, mostly in the Columbia Pike and Shirlington areas. Most stations are expected to be installed in March and April, although this schedule is tentative due to the large number of moving parts (permits, equipment delivery, Alta's schedule, etc.). A few stations may even be installed as early as February. For more information visit the [Capital Bikeshare Proposed Stations in Arlington](#) page on BikeArlington.com

Bike Map: The Arlington County Bike map has been reprinted and updated with a few revisions. Capital Bikeshare station locations are up to date (for the time being) and the map reflects the latest bike lane and sharrows additions to the county bike network. An electronic copy is available on the BikeArlington website. A stack of bike maps will be available at the meeting for anyone who wants one.

Bike & Walk to School Day: Wednesday, May 8th - Bike and Walk to School Day is currently in the planning stages and will be a county wide event. Building on last year, and expanding from just elementary schools, we would like to have participating at all public schools in Arlington. Visit our [Facebook album](#) for photos from last year. We would like to have volunteer greeters at each school on the morning of the event and will need help from the BAC and may call on APS parents specifically to garner school level interest and support. More details to come!

Bike to Work Day: Friday, May 17th - Bike to Work Day is also currently in the planning stages and will follow the basic template from years past. The one major change will be the official addition of an afternoon stop at East Falls Church, put on by Tri360 at the crossing of the W&OD at Lee/Washington. Website: www.biketoworkmetrodc.org More details to come!

Education Classes: We are also starting to plan our educational classes for Spring/Summer/Fall of 2013. We will continue with our weekly [Two Wheel Tuesday classes](#) (20-30 total classes) around the county and will also coordinate with WABA to host 4 instructional riding classes that will consist of parking lots drill and on-street riding. We will also put on 4 Learn to Ride classes with WABA. In the past we've used the rental bikes at Revolution Cycles' City Hub, but as those are no longer available, so we are currently looking into seeing if used bikes from the new "The Old Bike Shop" would be available. We will be meeting with the owner of that shop next week. If

anyone knows of a good location to host these L2R classes in the Pershing/Washington Blvd area, please let us know!

Outreach/Social Media – As usual, I'd like to put in a plug for everyone who doesn't already follow us through our various social media channel to do so immediately.

www.WashingtonAreaBikeForum.com

www.Facebook.com/BikeArlington

www.Twitter.com/BikeArlington

[Email Newsletter Signup](#)

Update from David Goodman (submitted in advance)

Bike program Infrastructure, engineering and operations. **(New information in bold.)**

1. On-street improvements - For the next couple months staff will be scoping out bike network improvements to two important north/south corridors: N. Harrison Street and S. Eads Street. Details have yet to be worked out, but both projects should include significant extensions of the bike lanes. The implementation of both projects will be contingent upon the County's resurfacing plans (and budget) for 2013. Preliminary layouts will be presented to the BAC for discussion prior to final plans. **Final paving and resurfacing plan expected in March.**
2. Construction of the new FHWA-funded wider sidewalks and buffer along S. Joyce Street under I-395 is largely complete and open for use. (Street lighting, signals and counting equipment are still to be done.) **Public "ribbon cutting" to take place in March.**
3. Short term safety improvements to the Rosslyn Circle area are complete. Deficient curb ramps at all the corners surrounding and including Gateway Park (except for three) have been rebuilt to meet current ADA standards. The remaining corners, NW and NE corners of WB Lee Hwy/Custis Trail at Lynn Street and NE corner of Lee Hwy/Custis Trail at Ft. Myer Drive, will be done in conjunction with the larger Rosslyn Circle project which is at 60% design and currently being reviewed by VDOT.
4. Washington Boulevard Trail Phase II - **Staff has preliminary agreement from the Department of the Navy** to renegotiate a new access easement that would reduce impacts on existing trees and allow the trail to be located further away from a streambed. Implementation of the trail is still planned to start in 2013.
5. Design work has begun on the creation of a short trail link in Bluemont Park between the Four Mile Run trail and Manchester Street near Ashlawn Elementary School. Construction is planned for 2013.

6. Planning work is about to commence on the design of a new ADA compliant trail linking Potomac Yard with the Four Mile Run trail. This multi-year project will involve the Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (JTF) which is composed of Alexandria and Arlington citizens and staff.

7. Staff is working with the NVRPA to get approvals to replace extraneous signage and markings with consistent and appropriate traffic controls along the W&OD trail. Implementation planned for spring 2013. **Awaiting feedback.**

8. Installation of Wayfinding signage along the Custis Trail will begin in February. First installations will be between George Mason Drive and the Lee Highway crossing near Cherrydale. Phase I will incorporate the entire Rosslyn-Ballston on-street network and the Custis Trail between Rosslyn and Ballston. **Planning has begun for the next phase, which will include the remainder of Arlington's major trails.**

9. Ten of the County's first automated bike lane counters have been installed this season. Locations include Fairfax Drive in Virginia Square, Quincy Street near Central Library, Military Road and Wilson and Clarendon Boulevards in Clarendon. Three new automated trail counters have been installed, bringing our total off street counter network to 15. Two more trail counters will be installed as part of the S. Joyce Street project (see #2). **Staff is working closely with Arlington County Commuter Services (ACCS) webmasters to make count data available to the public sometime in March.**

10. **21 new bike racks were installed in December and January**, including the County's first in-street racks (in front of the Java Shack).

11. Staff has developed options for keeping major trails accessible during ice and snow events this winter. One option involves utilizing County equipment and staff, another involves hiring contractors. If a plan is agreed upon to use one or the other (or a combination of both) there may still be time for snow clearing on the trails to take place this season. **Awaiting County Manager feedback.**

12. **Staff is refining the design of the new Carlin Springs Road bridge over George Mason Drive. The new bridge planned for construction in 2014 will include 6ft wide bike lanes and sidewalks.**

13. **The intersection of the W&OD Trail at Lee Highway in East Falls Church is being redesigned to better align the trail, improve queuing areas at the crosswalk and improve accessibility. A related, but separate effort to reduce conflicts with turning traffic by changing signal operations is also underway.**

Snow removal on the trails – There is some concern about the cost and strategy for clearing snow from the trails. The discussion included concern about whether the cost of the snow removal would be funded with new money or if the funding would be

reallocated, resulting in a decrease in funding for trails. Steve Offut suggested we ask the Arlington County manager for an update on the county status of trail snow removal.

Immediate Actions

ABAC Letter on CaBi at the Pentagon – there is a good letter that Allan Reiter to Congressman Moran for CaBi stations at the Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery. There was concern about the various proposed locations for the station at the Arlington Cemetery. Some of the proposed locations would seem to decrease ridership because the station wouldn't be visible to visitors. One of the proposed locations would have presented safety hazards to the CaBi staff servicing the station.

Update on Current Legislation

SB 1060 Following too closely; includes bicycles, mopeds, etc., increases minimum clearance. - Following too closely; passing other vehicles. Includes bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds among vehicles that the driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow more closely than is reasonable. The bill also increases from two feet to three feet the minimum clearance between a passing vehicle and an overtaken bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, moped, animal, or animal-drawn vehicle. - This was passed out of the Senate (30Y-9N) and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation (as of 5 Feb 2013)

HB 1950 Following too closely; driver of a vehicle shall not get closer than is reasonable, etc. - Following too closely. Includes bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds among vehicles that the driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow more closely than is reasonable. - This failed to pass out of the House (as of 28 Jan 2013).

SB 736 Motor vehicle doors; requires drivers and passengers to wait for reasonable opportunity to open. - Opening and closing motor vehicle doors. Requires drivers and passengers to wait for a reasonable opportunity to open vehicle doors on the side adjacent to moving traffic. A violation constitutes a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$100. - This was passed out of the Senate (23Y-17N) and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation (as of 1 Feb 2013)

Allen Muchnick reported that he expected the dooring bill to have trouble in the House.

SB 959 Pedestrians, etc; local government to adopt ordinances requiring to stop at marked crosswalks - Crossing highways. Allows local governing bodies to adopt ordinances requiring users of shared-use paths to stop before crossing highways at marked crosswalks. - This was passed out of the Senate (40Y-0N) and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation (as of 1 Feb 2013)

HB 2217 Pedestrians, etc; local government to adopt ordinances requiring to stop at marked crosswalks, etc - Crossing highways. Allows local governing bodies to adopt ordinances requiring users of shared-use paths to stop before crossing highways at marked crosswalks. - This was amended in the House to expand the scope and passed out (100Y-0N) (as of 4 Feb)

Trails and Road Crossings (SB959/HB2217) – House bill was for any trail crossing (regardless of speed limit). The Senate bill still includes the speed limit (35 mph). The Senate bill will be read in the House on Wednesday, Feb 6. The bill would allow local jurisdictions to enact ordinances to require a complete stop. The genesis for this bill seems to be the position of the Loudoun Commonwealth Attorney that the existing signs at trail crossings were not enforceable.

This bill is seen as presenting the potential for the harassment of cyclists by local law enforcement. A number of other cycling groups will be opposing its passage. This legislation appears to be the first imposition of traffic laws to trails. The discussion focused on the need to fully consider the policy implications of opening the door to a random application of traffic laws to trails.

Jakob indicated he would reach out to Sen. Favola to explain why the bill should be opposed. Jakob will also coordinate with Greg Billings at WABA to get a WABA blast

Strategy for BAC Testimony

We can ask for a 3 minute presentation at the Arlington County budget hearing. Allen suggests that the budget will be austere and we need to get the county to protect cycling within the county. Hearing will be 26 March.

Jakob indicated that the recent planning efforts suggested we acknowledge the past support for cycling and urge the board to keep the momentum. The ABAC wants the county to become a Gold Level Bicycle Friendly Community.

Comments to the board should also highlight the fact that improvements support a broader community. This would include the multi-modal and pedestrian as all trail users would benefit from transportation improvement.

National Bike Summit

The National Bike Summit will be March 4-6. This will force changing the ABAC meeting to Monday, 11 March. Theme for the Summit this year is “Bicycling means business”.

There is a proposal to invite Congressman Moran to participate in a Arlington ride to see the cycling facilities – Dana volunteered to put a letter together inviting Congressman Moran and Jakob will coordinate with the Arlington County Board to get them to participate.

Bike to Work Day – Would like to get members of the ABAC to participate in the BTWD efforts. Jakob suggested BTWD would be a good way to build membership in the BAC. BAC members were encouraged to volunteer to work at the BTWD pit stops.

The week before BTWD is Bike to School Day (BTSD), where parents could be engaged. In the May event, the number of schools that will be involved will be much larger. Using the BTSD as an approach to get parents involved with the BAC as a way to improve safe cycling was discussed.

Eric Goodman indicated that improving the BAC website would strengthen this outreach efforts. The improved website should include some accomplishments and goals.

VDOT Input on Design Issues – David Patton discussed the upcoming project to repair (by replacement). There will be a meeting at the VDOT office by the Navy Annex. Arlington County has planned to build a trail along 110 under the bridge that VDOT should consider.

Meeting with Jane Rudolph, Parks and Rec Director – Jakob and Greg Billings will be meeting her to discuss how the BAC can work with Parks and Rec.