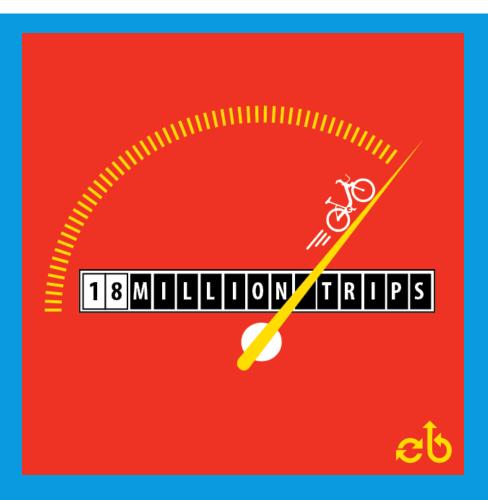
MTP BICYCLE ELEMENT UPDATE



March 2018



WHY A PLAN UPDATE?

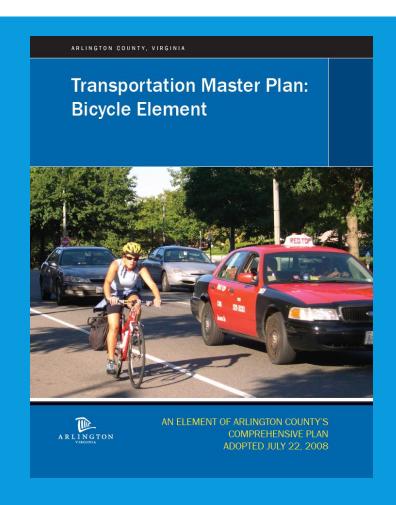


- Bicycle Element adopted in July 2008 Almost 10 years old
- Changes in technologies (bike share, electric bikes, automated counters) and facility types (protected bike lanes, bike boxes, NACTO guidance that are not in current plan
- New users and demographics in an emerging bicycling culture in Arlington and across the Washington, DC region have identified concerns about safety, access and comfort.
- Need to identify future facilities to be implemented

UPDATE PROCESS & TIMELINE

Planning Process in Two Parts

- Summer Winter 2017/18 Produce the Goals and Policies Framework
- Spring Summer 2018 Develop
 Implementation Section including
 proposed new bicycle network
- Fall 2018 County Board adoption of complete document



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT - SUMMER/FALL 2017



- 7 Community Events
- Working Group monthly meetings
- Webpage & e-mail address
- Advisory group presentations
- ACCS focus group sessions
- Community surveys (1200 responses)

SURVEY FINDINGS

Reasons Why Arlingtonians Don't Bike More Often:

- Don't feel safe riding on street (45%)
- 2. The weather (38%)
- 3. Too many things/people to carry (28%)
- 4. Takes more time (24%)
- 5. Fear for personal safety (21%)

Top Ways to Help Them Ride More:

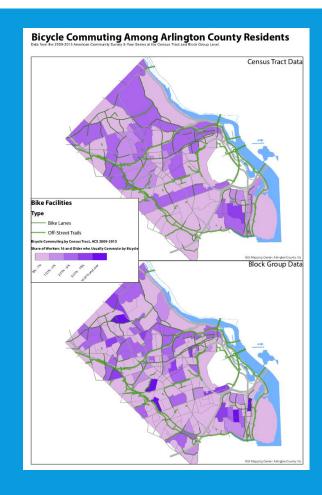
- 1. Add more separated bike lanes (64%)
- 2. Add more multi-use trails (45%)
- 3. Improve connectivity of bike network (44%)
- 4. Educate Drivers (35%)
- 5. Improve condition of existing bike lanes and trails (28%)

THE MAJOR TAKE-A-WAYS FROM PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- There is a strong interest in more bicycling
- The primary reason for not bicycling more often is a concern about safety on streets
- The best ways to enhance bicycling are to add more protected bicycle lanes and trails and improve the connectivity of the system
- Protected bicycle lanes (using physical barriers) have almost the same perceived comfort and safety as off-street trails
- Most respondents are dissatisfied with the number of bicycle lanes. Large gender gap in this area
- Most parents not comfortable with their children bicycling alone

BICYCLING CONDITIONS IN ARLINGTON

- A Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community (since 2011)
 with a long history of bicycle planning
- Commute mode share is now estimated at 2.4 to 5.0% and growing.
- Current bikeway system (108 miles and growing) now includes protected and buffered bike lanes and bicycle boulevards
- There is a network but coverage is limited in some areas; significant gaps in routes.
- Safety and encouragement programs are ongoing but significant user conflicts still exist



THE BIG PICTURE

- There are many reasons why increasing bicycling is good for Arlington (access, reliability, reduced congestion, environment, health, economy, community)
- People want a bicycling environment that is safe, convenient and comfortable for users of all ages
- Address equity issues (i.e. under-represented communities) and barriers/gaps in coverage
- Not just facilities education, encouragement and enforcement are essential



VISION FOR BICYCLING (NEW)

Bicycling is an integral part of Arlington's equitable, multi-modal transportation system and provides safe, comfortable, convenient and reliable travel for persons of all ages and abilities.

- Part of a multi-modal system
- Safety and comfort are top priorities
- Convenience and reliability are critical for regular use
- Seeking equity; all ages and abilities everyone will be considered and provided for

BICYCLE ELEMENT GOALS

- A. Provide environment that is safe and comfortable for all bicyclists
- B. Make all of Arlington accessible by bicycle using low-stress routes
- C. Increase the mode share of bicycle travel by improving infrastructure, education, enforcement, encouragement & evaluation
- D. Provide an excellent trail system (NEW)
- E. Properly manage, maintain and operate infrastructure
- F. Integrate bicycling in an efficient, equitable and sustainable transport system



14 POLICIES TO MEET GOALS

- Make existing streets and bikeways safer and more comfortable to use *
- 2. Enhance safety by addressing unsafe behavior and encouraging safe travel *
- 3. Expand bicycling safety education for children and adults
- 4. Provide a network of low-stress routes across Arlington and region
- 5. Provide higher-quality bicycling facilities
- 6. Establish bicycling as mainstream travel mode
- 7. Require support facilities from new development

- 8. Manage trails as community assets for transportation and recreation *
- 9. Manage trails for safety with increased use
- 10. Make trails more environmentally sustainable *
- 11. Assure safe travel with inclement weather and construction *
- 12. Regularly collect data for users and crashes
- 13. Provide adequate bicycle parking at transit and public facilities
- 14. Coordinate with region on bike sharing

* NEW

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SCHOOLS

- New emphasis is on making the bicycling environment work for all ages and abilities. Standard bike lanes may not be good enough for young persons on some streets.
- Plan will identify barriers and network gaps that discourage/prevent more bicycle travel (including bike-to-school). Bikeways network will be revised to achieve better coverage across Arlington.
- Plan will call for more low-traffic-stress routes to reach schools. Likely to involve enhancing local streets and improving crossings of arterial roads.
- Safety and on-bike education of students should be expanded
- Continue to build encouragement efforts for students and staff to travel by bicycle
- Continue to expand and improve bicycle parking at schools as demand grows





NEXT STEPS

- March 2018 Complete outreach on draft *Policies Framework Section*
- April May 2018 Undertake next round of public outreach with a focus on identifying what improvements are needed to the existing bikeway network to achieve improved access for all. How can we effectively involve APS staff, students and parents?
- June October 2018 Develop draft Implementation Section including Bikeway Network Map. Seek community review and feedback.
- Fall 2018 Finalize Bicycle Element (Policy Framework and Implementation Section) and hold pubic hearings for adoption.
- https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/projects/mastertransportation-plan-bicycle-element-working-group/