



County of Fairfax, Virginia

# Mason District Community Conversation



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Fairfax County Department of  
Transportation

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## Agenda

- Meeting Logistics
- What is Active Transportation?
- What are Active Transportation Facilities?
- Planning for the Future
- Next Steps
- Discussion/Q&A





## Meeting Logistics

The meeting is recorded. The recording will be available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk/activefairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk/activefairfax).

To **ask a question**, use the WebEx “Q&A” feature:

- Open the “Q&A” window.
- Type in your question.

To **answer a question**, use the WebEx “Chat” feature:

- Open the “Chat” window.
- Type in your question.

To **ask or answer a question verbally**, please raise your hand:

- On the computer, click on the hand symbol on the bottom right of your screen.
- On the phone, press \*3 to raise your hand.



# What is Active Transportation?





## Active Transportation: Definition

*Active Transportation includes all forms of non-motorized, self-propelled travel, such as walking, riding a bike or horse, hiking, running, and rolling (wheelchair/scooters/stroller).*

There are a few notable exceptions: The definition includes electric micromobility vehicles such as

- electric scooters,
- electric bikes and
- electric skateboards.



# What are Active Transportation Facilities?





## Active Transportation Facilities

- Pedestrian Facilities
- Bicycle Facilities
- Hiking/Mountain Biking/Equestrian Facilities





# Pedestrian Facilities







## Sidewalks



Wide urban sidewalks encourage social strolling and lingering. There are often street trees, lighting and benches.



Suburban sidewalks are designed to provide a functional and safe space to walk separate from traffic. The 5 ft width is a minimum standard to accommodate wheelchairs. Trees, lighting and benches are not always provided.



## What is a Crosswalk?



A mid-block crosswalk is a crossing that is located between two intersections



## Enhanced Crosswalks



A pedestrian refuge island gives people a place to wait while crossing a street.



Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) are bright flashing lights that are activated by pushing a button. The lights warn drivers that a person is crossing the road. Pedestrians still have to wait for a safe gap in traffic before crossing.



## Signalized Crosswalks



Signalized Crosswalks are located at intersections and provide people with enough time to cross the street safely. The signals are often push button activated but can also come on automatically.



Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon signals are push button activated mid-block crosswalks that stop traffic when someone wants to cross the road.



## Pedestrian Bridges and Tunnels



People can cross a road, train tracks, trail or body of water on a pedestrian bridge or footbridge.



A pedestrian tunnel allows people to cross under a busy road or railroad on a trail or sidewalk.



## Share your thoughts!

In the chat, please share **your experience walking, running, or strolling** in Fairfax County. If you would like to speak, please raise your hand. If you are calling in, press \*3 to raise your hand.





# Bicycle Facilities





## Shared Streets



Quiet neighborhood streets or Slow Streets can often be shared safely by pedestrians, bicycles and cars. These streets often have no painted lines on it which pushes cars towards the center.



Shared Lane Markings or “Sharrows” indicate a shared travel lane for bicycles and cars on slow but busy narrow streets that are popular bike routes.





## Bike Lanes



Bike lanes provide a dedicated space for bicyclists to ride on the street. If space allows, bike lanes can have a buffer between the bike lane and cars (buffered bike lanes).



## Shared Use Paths



Shared Use Paths provide a safe space for biking, walking, running and rolling either along a road or through nature. Sometimes these facilities are also called trails, or sidepaths when next to a road.



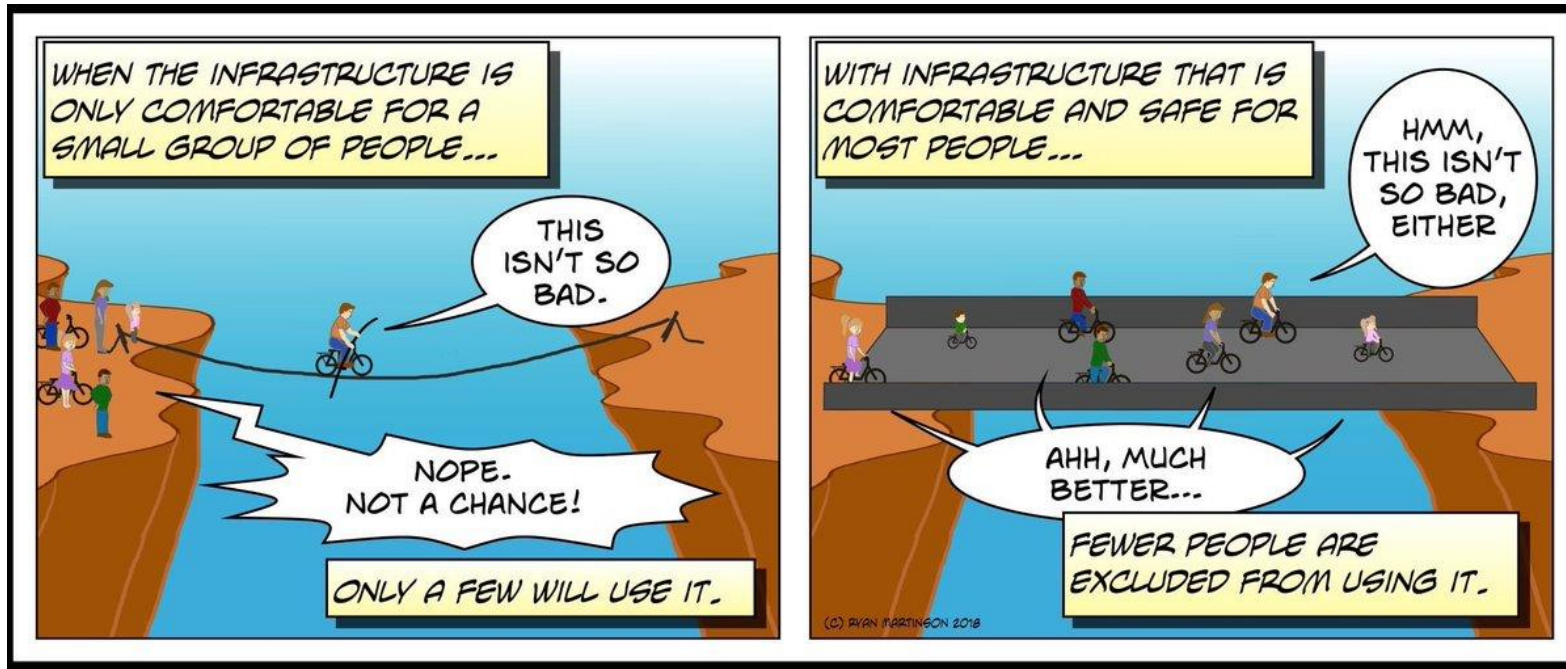
## Separated Bikeways



Separated bikeways, also known as protected bike lanes or cycletracks, provide a dedicated place for bicyclists to ride physically separated from pedestrians and from cars. Separated bikeways can be one-way on each side of the road, or two-way.



# Bicycle Facilities for All Ages and Abilities





## BICYCLIST DESIGN USER PROFILES

### Interested but Concerned

**51%-56%** of the total population

Often not comfortable with bike lanes, may bike on sidewalks even if bike lanes are provided; prefer off-street or separated bicycle facilities or quiet or traffic-calmed residential roads. May not bike at all if bicycle facilities do not meet needs for perceived comfort.

### Somewhat Confident

**5-9%** of the total population

Generally prefer more separated facilities, but are comfortable riding in bicycle lanes or on paved shoulders if need be.

### Highly Confident

**4-7%** of the total population

Comfortable riding with traffic; will use roads without bike lanes.



**LOW STRESS TOLERANCE**

**HIGH STRESS TOLERANCE**



## Share your thoughts!

In the chat, please share **your experience riding a bike, scooter or another small vehicle** in Fairfax County, if applicable. If you would like to speak, please raise your hand. If you are calling in, press \*3 to raise your hand.





# Hiking/Mountain Biking/Equestrian Facilities





# Hiking, Mountain Biking and Equestrian Trails



Natural surface trails primarily serve hikers, mountain bikers and/or equestrian users. Mountain biking trails can also include obstacles and elevated trails to challenge users.





## Share your thoughts!

If you are **hiking, riding a mountain bike, or riding a horse** on trails in Fairfax County, please share **your experience** in the chat. If you would like to speak, please raise your hand. If you are calling in, press \*3 to raise your hand.





# Complete Streets





## Complete Streets

- Are safe for walking, biking and driving
- Include street trees, street lighting and street furniture
- Are more comfortable and enjoyable to walk and bike along





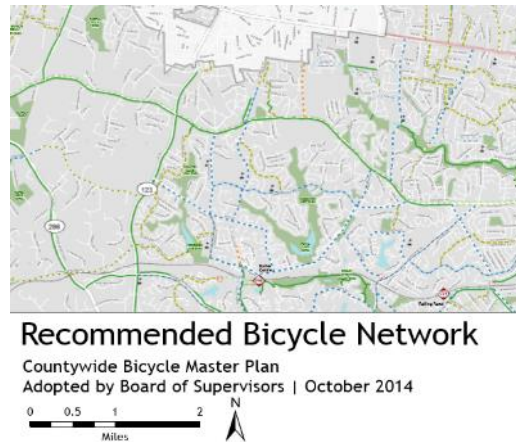
# Planning for the Future





# Current Active Transportation Plans

- Countywide Trails Plan
- Bicycle Master Plan
- Special Area Plans (Activity Centers)



FAIRFAX COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2017 Edition  
Lincolnia Planning District, Amended through 7-16-2019  
Lincolnia Community Business Center

AREA I  
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## Regional Trail Network Plan

- Some existing and planned multi-use trails in Fairfax County are part of the regional Capital Trails Network



### Legend for the Interactive Map

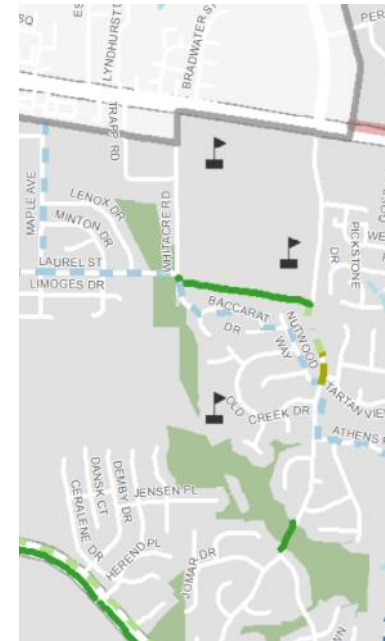
- Green = existing trails
- Orange = planned trails

Graphic: Capital Trails Coalition



# Need for Active Transportation Plan Update

- Inconsistencies between the Bike Master Plan, Countywide Trails Plan and Area Plans
- Some facilities and design recommendations are outdated and no longer meet national standards and best practices
- Lack of countywide pedestrian specific recommendations
- No specific guidance on active transportation safety and comfort, as well as implementation prioritization
- Countywide Strategic Plan emphasizes need for active transportation facilities and safety improvements





# Project Schedule

## Phase One

- Policy & Plan Audit
- Existing Conditions Review
- Community Engagement
- Vision, Goals, Objectives & Benefits
- Strategic Safety Program Plan

## Phase Two

- Facility Selection Toolkit
- Network Recommendations
- Program Recommendations
- Implementation Guidance
- Funding Prioritization
- Comprehensive Plan Amendment

**Timeline Phase One:** July 2020 – July 2021





## Share your thoughts!

Please describe your **vision for active travel** in Fairfax County in the future. Please type your answer in the chat. If you would like to speak, please raise your hand. If you are calling in, press \*3 to raise your hand.





## ActiveFairfax Project Priorities

1. Plan a connected and comfortable network of sidewalks, bikeways and trails that serve people of all ages and abilities
2. Help engineers design safer pedestrian facilities such as enhanced crossings
3. Encourage completing streets with trees and lighting
4. Recommend changes to laws that could help make walking and biking safer and more comfortable
5. Recommend programs and initiatives to encourage people to walk and bike (more)
6. Prioritize improvements



# Tools of Engagement





## Community Survey

- Help us understand how you currently use active transportation and share your ideas on the future of active transportation in Fairfax County!
- To take the complete survey, go to:  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk/activefairfax>





## Identify Destinations + Barriers

- Use this map to tell us where you would like to walk or ride and identify any barriers to active travel
- Access the map here:  
<https://activefairfax.weebly.com/>





## Identify Destinations + Barriers

- Use this map to view the planned trail and bikeway network from the 2014 Bicycle Master Plan and the Countywide Trail Plan. Tell us about any missing links in the network.
- Access the map here:  
<https://activefairfax.weebly.com/>





## Next Steps

- Public engagement will continue through May 1, 2021
- Development of a vision and goals reflecting key outcomes for active transportation in Fairfax County
- Public review of draft vision and goals
- Approval of vision and goals by Board of Supervisors
- Conclusion of Phase One in summer 2021





## Comments and Questions

- **Website:**  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk/activefairfax>
- **Email:** [ActiveFairfax@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ActiveFairfax@fairfaxcounty.gov)
- **By mail:** Fairfax County Department of Transportation, Active Transportation Program, 4050 Legato Road, Fairfax, VA 22033

### To ask a Question Now

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**If calling in via telephone:**

- Press \*3 to "raise your hand" and to be added to the queue.