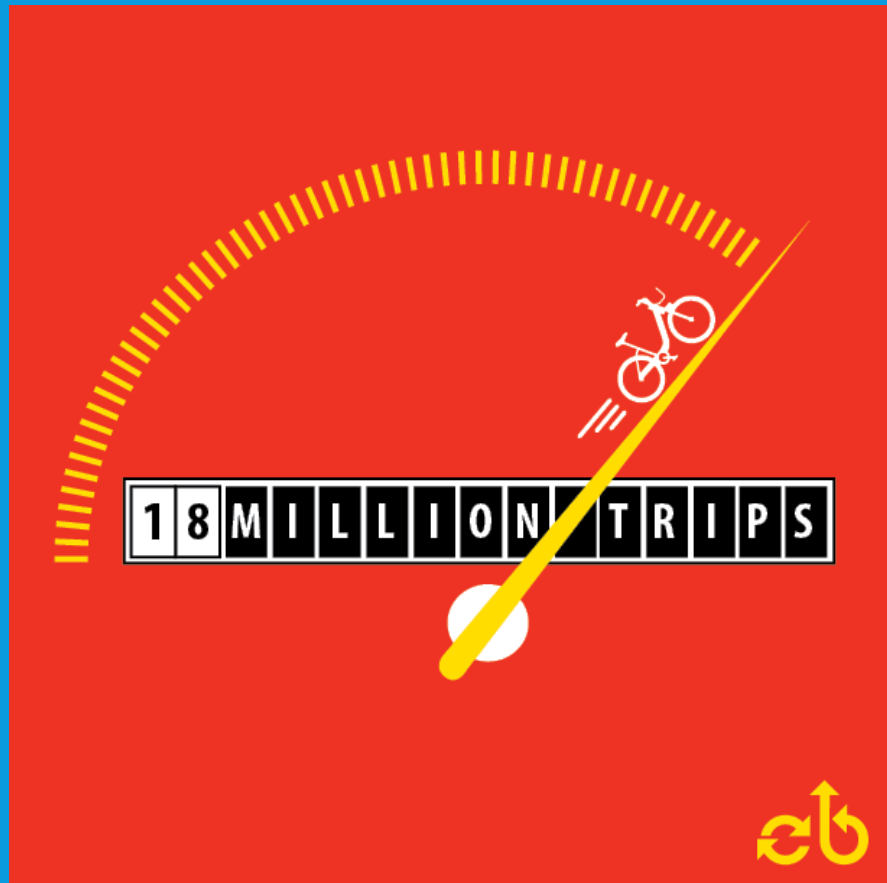


# MTP BICYCLE ELEMENT UPDATE

March 2018



# WHY A PLAN UPDATE?

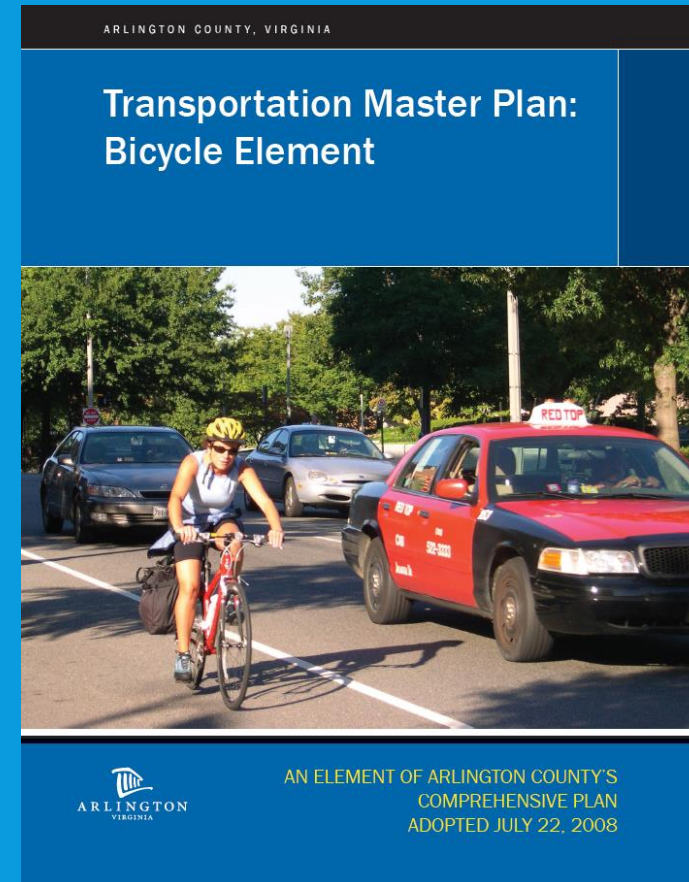


- Bicycle Element adopted in July 2008 – Almost 10 years old
- Changes in technologies (bike share, electric bikes, automated counters) and facility types (protected bike lanes, bike boxes, NACTO guidance that are not in current plan
- New users and demographics in an emerging bicycling culture in Arlington 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 - SUMMMER/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:

1. **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:

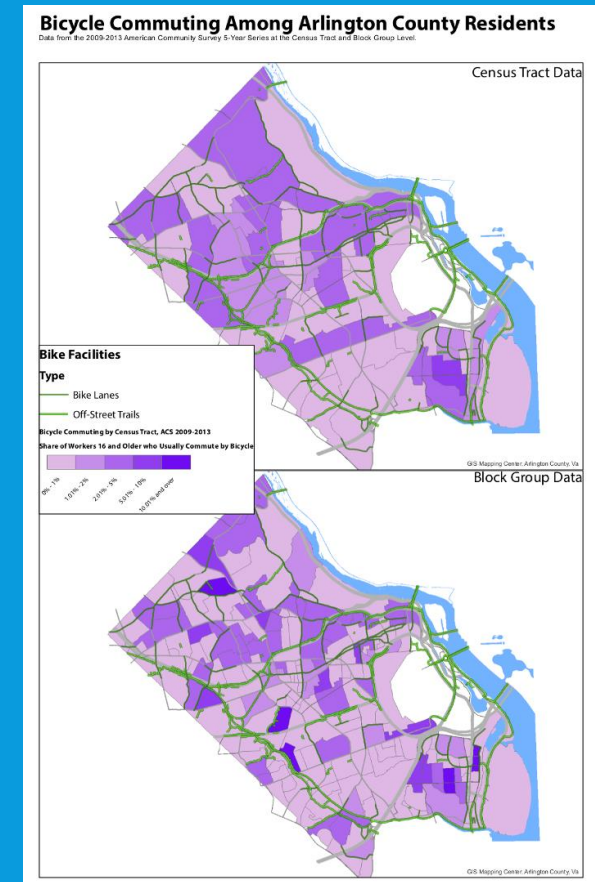
1. **Add more separated bike lanes (64%)**
2. Add more multi-use trails (45%)
3. Improve connectivity of bike network (44%)
4. Educate Drivers (35%)
5. Improve condition of existing bike lanes and trails (28%)

# 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

1. 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 public hearings for adoption.
- <https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/projects/master-transportation-plan-bicycle-element-working-group/>