



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 6, 2014

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tom Biesiadny, Director  
Department of Transportation 

SUBJECT: Transmittal of the Draft "Fairfax County Bicycle Master Plan"

Attached is a draft copy of the Fairfax County Bicycle Master Plan. In the coming weeks, staff will be scheduling work sessions with the Planning Commission's Transportation Committee, and reviewing the draft document, as well as the Bikeway Network Maps. As has been the case with the 2002 Countywide Trails Map, the maps will graphically provide guidance on future bicycle infrastructure improvements, but will specifically call-out prescribed treatments for both on-road and off-road facilities. The maps are under internal review and are not available for distribution; however, staff believes it is important to distribute the draft document to the Board as part of the initial review process.

The Master Plan is composed of six chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Bicycling Conditions
3. The Bikeway Network
4. Bicycle Policy Recommendations
5. Bicycle Program Recommendations
6. Implementation

The first three are intended to be incorporated into the Transportation element of the Policy Plan, a volume of the Comprehensive Plan following Board approval. The first chapter describes the scope of the project and important aspects such as public outreach and involvement. Chapters 2 and 3 provide an overview of existing conditions and offer guidance about planned bicycle facility types and appropriate locations for each type. These recommendations, found in Chapter 3, provide further definition of bicycle lanes, buffered bike lanes, shared lane markings and other features to clarify recommendations on the forthcoming Recommended Bikeway Network Quad Maps.

Board of Supervisors  
May 6, 2014  
Page Two

The Board of Supervisors will be asked to endorse Chapters 4, 5 and 6 in concept. These chapters are oriented to technical and programmatic approaches that, while outside the purview of the Comprehensive Plan, will be useful in implementing bikeway network recommendations.

Chapter 4 includes bicycle policy recommendations that will require further discussion with the Virginia Department of Transportation; offers options to select features of on-road and off-road facilities, based on environmental conditions; suggests experimental and other alternatives for road and intersection improvements that seek to balance cycling safety and access with the goal of acceptable levels of service for vehicles; and discusses maintenance issues that may be remedied through establishing dedicated funding and specific programs. With respect to determining appropriate facilities features, the chapter includes explanations of how posted speed, presence of on-street parking, lane widths, and sidepath (off-road) trail widths and other elements provide can guide decision making.

Chapter 5 includes information on establishing programs to educate and support education about bicycling in support of the goals of the bicycle master plan. Safety, to include coordinating with schools and community anchors to increase cycling trips, reach new communities and reduce language barriers, is particularly emphasized. Increased coordination with law enforcement/public safety agencies, such as to undertake actions such as legislative clarification, training and enforcement are thoroughly discussed.

Chapter 6 lists specific implementation strategies to strengthen the county's bicycle program. It includes recommendations for strengthening the county's bicycle program, suggesting modifications to current VDOT policy and practice as it relates to bicycling, and discusses interagency and inter-jurisdictional coordination. The Plan finally discusses funding and defines performance measures for tracking Plan targets.

Our goal will be the adoption and incorporation of the first Bicycle Master Plan into the County's Comprehensive Plan. We would appreciate any comments you have in advance of formal consideration by the Planning Commission. Should you have questions or concerns, please call Charlie Strunk at (703) 877-5766.

Attachment: a/s

Cc: Edward L. Long Jr., County Executive  
Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive  
Catherine A. Chianese, Assistant County Executive