

## Response to Questions on the FY 2011 Budget

**Request By:** Supervisor Hudgins

**Question:** How much is the County currently spending on bicycle programs?

**Response:** The County's Department of Transportation operates a Bicycle Program and has also funded the purchase and mounting of bike racks on CONNECTOR busses.

General Fund support of the County's Bicycle Program has decreased in recent years due to budget reductions. Capital improvement funding for bicycle facilities, such as lockers and amenities, signage, and on-road bike lanes has been included in the budget as one of the uses of commercial and industrial tax revenue.

The Bicycle Program began in FY 2007 with a budget of \$445,970 at the direction of the Board of Supervisors. Board priorities called for establishing a dedicated staff person to focus on bicycle issues/projects, create and publish a Fairfax County Route Map, examine roadways that can accommodate on-road bike lanes with minimum or no reconstruction, and establish a demonstration project of an interconnected bicycle network (Staff developed five target areas including: the Vienna Metro Station; the Dunn Loring/Merrifield Town Center; Government Center/Fairfax Corner; Reston; and Tysons Corner). The greater Tysons Corner area is the only area currently under consideration due to funding limitations. Annual funding has supported capital improvements, signage and pavement markings, bike maps and outreach materials and a coordinating position. FY 2010 reductions eliminated approximately half of General Fund operational funding, and the proposed FY 2011 reduction will eliminate all General Fund operations dollars. The FY 2010 Adopted Budget Plan funding is \$288,164. Proposed FY 2011 funding is \$74,523 and is related to the one supporting position. In FY 2011, this position will continue to serve as the point of contact for bicycle-related issues, will work on acquiring grant funding for bicycle programming and providing input on how to incorporate bicycles when planning capital roadway projects, and will oversee the implementation of bicycle facility improvements funded by the commercial and industrial real estate tax.

On July 13, 2009, the Board approved \$1,000,000 total over four years (FY 2009 through FY 2012) of commercial and industrial tax revenue for the Bicycle Facilities Program.

Also during FY 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of \$525,000 in State Aid held on behalf of the County by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) for the purchase and mounting of bike racks on all existing buses in the CONNECTOR fleet, including staff training related to the use of the racks. This appropriation of funds was made in cooperation with a regional Washington Metro Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) environmental program. In addition, each year new replacement CONNECTOR buses have been equipped with bike racks as part of their purchase cost, at a cost of approximately \$1,900 per bus. Approximately 15 aging buses have been replaced annually, in accordance with the Bus Fleet Replacement Policy, in order to minimize maintenance issues and ensure future bus service reliability.