

Arlington Shines Silver

In October 2007, Arlington was awarded as a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB), the national bicycle advocacy organization. One of only two communities on the entire eastern seaboard with this designation or higher, Arlington now shares the same bike-friendliness as other bike havens such as Chicago, Austin and Santa Barbara. How does being bike-friendly make being car-lite or car-free possible?

Arlington has 46 miles of trails,
24 miles of bike lanes, and
43 miles of signed bike routes.

Creating this many miles of bike facilities has been a long time in the making. Arlington adopted its first Bicycle Plan in 1974, and with its first bike coordinator in 1988, has been busy implementing the plan since. Thanks to these efforts, car-lite and car-free Arlingtonians generally live within a few blocks of a bike lane or trail.



Arlington
requires all new
development to
provide indoor
and outdoor bike
parking and, in
retail and office
buildings, showers
and lockers.

What better way to encourage biking to work than by providing showers, lockers, and secure bike parking at office buildings. Arlington has had this requirement for many years and it's paying off. The trails in the morning are busy with commuters enjoying a peaceful and healthful ride to work. Car-lite-ers can give up the expensive car commute and enjoy a fun bike commute into the office.

Arlington recently broke ground for a trail segment connecting the Four Mile Run Trail with the W&OD Trail.

With the time savings this trail segment will provide, biking often will be faster than driving - much to the delight of the car-lite and car-free crowd.

On October 22, 2007 Arlington officially kicked-off the construction of this long-awaited segment which will allow trail users to remain on the trail rather than detouring on busy streets in Shirlington and Park Fairfax in Alexandria. This will shave off minutes from commutes and more importantly,

decrease the potential for crashes with motor vehicles. The trail segment will cost \$4,000,000 to construct as it must go beneath I-395 and along Four Mile Run. The construction is expected to last 18 months, so look for the grand opening in 2009.

Arlington has taken every opportunity to create bike lanes on arterial roads. Travel lanes are narrowed or removed to create dedicated space for cyclists. Arterials like Wilson Boulevard and Clarendon Boulevard in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor were restriped a few years ago to give cyclists a dedicated lane. So many, if not most, of your bicycle trips in Arlington will be on a dedicated bike lane.



Over a quarter of Arlington's arterial streets have bike lanes.

Three percent of all trips in Arlington are made by bike.

In 2006, Arlington County Commuter Services conducted a telephone survey of residents and found that 3% of all trips that Arlingtonians made were by bike. This is more than three times the national average. This means you're not the only one out there biking. There are lots of others living car-lite and car-free doing the same thing.



Visit BikeArlington.com where you can view our 2007 Bike Map which shows great places to ride, learn about upcoming bike projects like the Ballston Bike Center, and make plans to attend one of our many cycling events like Bike to Work Day on May 16 and the Arlington & Alexandria Community Bike Ride this June. Consider going car-lite or car-free in Arlington. It's easier than you think, especially with a bike.