

People First on Arlington Road

A Safer and Calmer Connection for Downtown Bethesda



Problems on Arlington Road

Arlington Road has history of safety issues for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists. Many pedestrians have been struck by drivers including a mother with a baby stroller in a crosswalk. Walking to Bethesda Elementary School is unsafe. Drivers weave frequently between lanes due to the lack of left turn lanes, and this increases the risk of crashes. The nearby Capital Crescent Trail and the Bethesda Trolley Trail are two of the busiest bicycle routes in the County. Although only two miles apart, all potential on-road connections between the trails are congested and risky for cyclists and pedestrians. Capital Crescent Trail is heavily used by cyclists, pedestrians, dog walkers and families. Multi-use is great, but it increases risk for conflicts and injury .

The Solution

Build a protected bike lane on Arlington Road to provide a direct connection from the Capital Crescent Trail to the Bethesda Trolley Trail and the National Institutes of Health, and make safety improvements for drivers and pedestrians.

Benefits to the Community

- A redesign of Arlington Road will reduce speeding, make turning more predictable for drivers, provide a dedicated space for people on bicycles, create a buffer between the busy street and the sidewalk, and shorten the crosswalks for pedestrians.
- Connecting the CCT and the BTT would provide cyclists a safe route to NIH and access to the thriving business districts along Woodmont Avenue and Old Georgetown Road.
- A bike lane, specifically on Arlington Road, would provide relief from thoroughfare cycle traffic on the north end of the Capital Crescent Trail.

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