



WASHINGTON
AREA
BICYCLIST
ASSOCIATION

RIDE » ON FALL ★ 2014

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear WABA Members,

You'll notice from the bright colors on these pages that we have made some changes to your RideOn newsletter. We have made some changes to some other things as well, as WABA continues to evolve to meet the growing and changing needs of our membership and region. Throughout this issue, I want you to learn more about that evolution, because your support is critical to our success as we grow our advocacy capacity, refocus our educational offerings, enhance our outreach programming, and build a financially sustainable organization to continue to pursue our mission for years to come.

The question of financial sustainability is an especially relevant one as we approach the fall knowing that our largest grant that funds our DC safety education program will expire at the close of the calendar year. This leaves us with big questions about how to continue serving the growing need to educate cyclists about safely navigating the streets, and other road users about sharing space safely with bicyclists. On the next page, Arielle Milkman explains how our education team has redesigned WABA's classes and educational offerings to better meet the needs of area cyclists of all ages. These changes will make our education work more accessible and effective for anyone who attends our classes, and we hope the new structure will allow us to continue to offer educational programming even as we prepare for the potential loss of the program's funding.

On the advocacy front, we have a number of successes to celebrate. Advocacy Coordinator Greg Billing provides an update on those recent successes, as well as updates on the rollout of our new Action Committee

structure designed to make WABA's work better on community-level (as opposed to regional) projects throughout the region. Garrett Hennigan, who many members know as the Trail Ranger Program Coordinator, provides an update on our comprehensive trail advocacy initiative--which we are incredibly grateful to REI for financially supporting.

There is a great deal happening at WABA, and we thank you for supporting our work through your membership. In the coming few months we will have to face some big questions about our program funding, our office space, and our strategic plan for the future. So while we will ask for your support in navigating this period, we will continue to maintain the highest standards for our advocacy and programming, and will continue to represent your bicycling interests throughout the region.

I hope you enjoy the new newsletter format and appreciate the work we've been doing and the new approaches we'll be taking soon. As always, I welcome your feedback at shane@waba.org, or whenever you see me out and about.

Best,

Shane Farthing
Executive Director

Photos in this issue by: Gabe Barouh, Pete Beers, Greg Billing, Colin Browne, Garrett Hennigan, Arielle Milkman, Nelle Pierson, and Twitter user @Pak113



EDUCATION UPDATE

Beyond Drills in the Parking Lot: *Creating More Inclusive Education Programming*

by Arielle Milkman,
Assistant Education Coordinator

Looking back on the spring education season is kind of like trying to gaze backward through time into a whirling tornado.

In just a few months, we taught bicycle safety and riding skills to about 1,500 kids in DC public schools. We taught 124 adults to bike for the first time. And we provided a safe space to practice technique and ask hard questions for the 143 people who came to City Cycling class.

This fall we're bringing those programs back, and we're adding some new ones too.

My favorite part of teaching with WABA has always been meeting people where they're at – adapting our program and curriculum to deliver practical stuff students can turn around and use the next day.

And yet, this summer, as we reflected on the crazy spring, we took some time to pause and think about the people our adult education program doesn't do much for.

What can we offer bicyclists who don't have time to take a three-hour-long class, or riders who are more interested in going on an experiential ride than doing drills in a parking lot?

And how can we work harder to make elementary and middle school students

into bicyclists, beyond letting them ride a bike in a gym for a few minutes?

New Adult Education Programming:

This fall, we're trying something different – an educational ride series.

What is an educational ride? It's not quite a class – there won't be any sitting around or listening to lectures or doing exercises. It's not your fast-paced spandex-clad roadie ride either (although if you want to join us in your best lycra, we'd love to see you!).

Each of our rides is focused on a different topic that's critical for successful city riding: infrastructure, hill climbing, and transitioning from trails to city streets.

Each ride is designed to be an inclusive space. This means we'll be rolling slowly, taking our time to let the experience soak into our brains. We'll make plenty of stops to talk technique and unpack the meanings of all the various lines on the DC roads. And afterward, we'll eat some tacos together!

Our fall ride series is a significant departure from our previous classes and programming, and we hope you'll join us on this new journey.

New Youth Programming

This fall we're rolling out Bike Club, a progressive 5-7 week after school program designed to get kids aged

eight through fourteen thinking about bicycling for fun, exploration, physical fitness, and transportation.

We think bicycling can be a meaningful, intellectually engaging, consciousness-shifting activity (that's why we do what we do!), so Bike Club is about much more than riding.

We're using bicycling as a vehicle to teach team building, community engagement, volunteerism, and awareness of the urban environment.

If you'd like to bring Bike Club to your school, contact Arielle Milkman at education@waba.org to get involved.

Similarly, summer 2015 will be a busy one for us. We're taking our Bike Club curriculum and turning it into a full-time summer Bike Camp, and we can't wait. If you or your child would like to be involved, email us at education@waba.org to stay in the loop.

Thanks for your support as we develop more education programs to meet diverse needs in the Washington area. We're building something big, and we couldn't do it without you.

Check out our new Educational Ride series!

- ★ Oct 1: **Gotta Get Up To Get Down**—Managing Hills in the City
- ★ Oct 15: **Bike Lane Blitz**
Navigating new infrastructure
- ★ Oct 29: **Round Round Get Around**—Dealing with traffic circles

Details at waba.org/edrides

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Connected, Protected and Everywhere

Bike Lanes in D.C.'s 20 Year Transportation Plan

by Greg Billing, Advocacy Coordinator

The District's MoveDC draft plan, released earlier this summer, proposes an expansion of the bicycling network with over 200 new miles of bike lanes, protected bike lanes (cycle tracks) and trails. The total envisioned bicycle network would be 136 miles of bike lanes, 72 miles of protected bike lanes (cycle tracks), and 135 miles of trails – the finished network would be a whopping 343 miles of dedicated bicycle infrastructure.

This is a huge success for WABA and, more importantly, an enormous step forward for biking in the District.

The public input process began in February 2013 with a major kick-off event and three rounds of public meetings. There were also online surveys, webinars, and bimonthly advisory group meetings. Many of you participated in this public input process, and your perseverance has paid off.

The bicycling element of the plan examines existing conditions, current policies and highlights the recent growth. Bicycling in DC is the fastest growing mode of transportation and

it is in this context DDOT outlines substantial growth in the bicycle network. DDOT planners hope to put a protected bike lane or trail within a 2 minute bike ride of most city residents.



More protected bike lanes are coming to the District.

The draft plan also includes a thorough update and progress report on the 2005 Bicycle Master Plan. DDOT gives updates on the 14 core recommendations outlined in the master plan. Many major initiatives have been finished or are nearing completion. Other projects such as the Met Branch Trail and Rock Creek Park Trail are years behind schedule. It's worth reading the full progress update to see how much has been done, and how much is still left to do.

A plan of this scale has not been undertaken since the late 1990's. The Move DC plan will affect all future policies, funding, project planning, engineering, and construction. Given

this enormous scope, WABA and other transportation advocates asked DDOT for further clarification on how the plan would be implemented. The agency used a DC Council hearing in July to address concerns from the public, the Council, and groups like WABA. The Council does not intend to vote on the plan, but rather will use it to examine how DDOT is budgeting and performing.



WABA Advocacy Coordinator Greg Billing testifies at a D.C. Council hearing on the MoveDC plan.

WABA looks forward to working with DDOT to accomplish the goals outlined in Move DC.

We expect DDOT to release the final Move DC plan this fall. From there the planning process goes from a city-wide exercise to individual local projects. It will take years for many of the ambitious projects outlined in Move DC to be realized but the vision DDOT has set out for bicycling in DC is an excellent one.

Renewed Energy for the Trails Movement

by Greg Billing, Advocacy Coordinator

The Washington area is home to some of the best walking and biking trails in the country. Our region's growing trail network provides recreational opportunities and transportation utility for residents and visitors alike. Building such a robust network isn't easy. Trails projects defy boundaries—a leisurely afternoon trail ride can easily take you through space managed by half a dozen jurisdictions, each with its own regulations, budget, and planning process that is not necessarily coordinated with its neighbors. Complex cross-jurisdictional projects like the Capital Crescent and Metropolitan Branch Trails take years of dedicated advocacy to move from a community idea to pavement you can ride your bike or walk your dog on. This long process takes patience and sustained engagement—trail advocacy can be fatiguing for even the most committed volunteer advocates and community members. But a strong coalition of fellow stakeholders can help keep everyone enthusiastic and focused.

Groups like WABA bring long-term commitment, stability and expertise

to trails advocacy. We know how the process works from start to finish, and which government agencies are responsible for doing what. But we can't do it alone. The Anacostia Tributary Trail system, the Washington & Old Dominion, Capital Crescent, and the Met Branch trails were brought into reality by coalitions of not just bicyclists, but environmental groups, neighborhood groups, health groups, transportation planners, and countless others.

This fall, a grant from REI has enabled WABA to devote substantial resources to reinvigorating our regional trails movement. In the coming months, we'll be rolling out several new programs that we hope will get folks excited about the next stages of the trail network and keep the implementing agencies focused on completing these important projects.

Keep an eye out for:

- ★ A series of future trail tours that explore the areas that will be connected if trails are completed.
- ★ A concept plan for a Route 50 corridor trail that will connect the Memorial Bridge to Fairfax County.

- ★ A professionally facilitated, closed-door meeting between the various agencies across the region that need to coordinate to get trails built.
- ★ A public Trails Summit that brings public and government stakeholders together to celebrate our current trail network and envision its future.

We encourage you to stay connected to our trail advocacy efforts and get involved when you can. You can find out more about our trail advocacy on the WABA website at waba.org/advocacy.

Explore the future of your trails network!

- ★ **Oct. 4:** Ride the unbuilt trails of Southeast DC
- ★ **Oct. 11:** Ride a section of the WB&A Trail and learn how it will connect to the region's trail network.

Details at waba.org/trails



A New Structure for Community Level Grassroots Action

by Greg Billing, Advocacy Coordinator

WABA began as a loose collection of volunteers who wanted to make their communities better for bicycling. 42 years later, we are a much larger organization with a regional vision but the value of grassroots, neighbor-to-neighbor organizing remains paramount. Earlier this year, we announced the formation of two new Action Committees in Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties. Additional committees in other communities in the region will form over the next few years. We are empowering these locally focused, volunteer advocates with the tools, training and support needed to win campaigns for better biking conditions. This model, pioneered by Bike New York, has proven successful in cities across the country.

The Action Committees are campaign focused. Guided by WABA's 10 Advocacy Priorities, each group collectively decides on a discrete, tangible goal and builds out an action plan to achieve it using their own deep knowledge of their communities and WABA's policy expertise and advocacy tools.

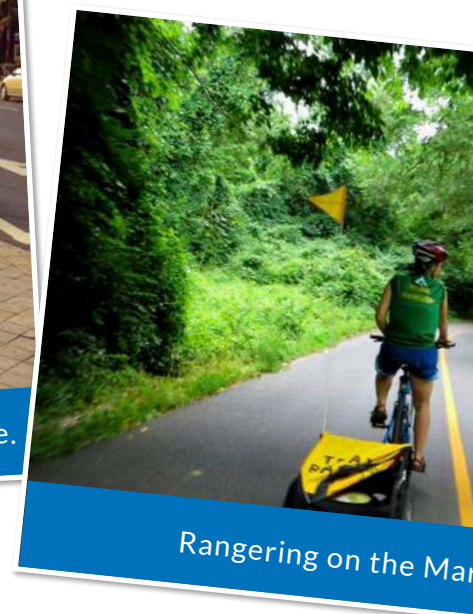
Since forming this spring, Action Committees in Prince George's County and Montgomery County have met monthly to determine campaign goals and map out their action plans. Committee members in Prince George's County are working to build a protected bike lane on Suitland Road from the District line to Silver Hill Road. Advocates in Montgomery County are campaigning to build a protected bike lane in downtown Bethesda on Arlington Road. Information about both campaigns can be found on the WABA website at waba.org/campaigns.

This is a learning process for everyone. Our hope over the next few years is to have Action Committees in all six of WABA's regional jurisdictions. In addition to developing their own advocacy skills, the volunteers on these first two committees are helping WABA learn how to make this model work.

Our hope is that the WABA Action Committees will nurture a network of skilled, committed advocacy volunteers, bring new people into advocacy and win local campaigns for better biking. We believe it's a winning strategy.

Learn more about the Action Committees on the WABA website at waba.org/take-action

WABA OUT & ABOUT



Recent Advocacy Successes

VA Three Foot Passing Law Goes into Effect

As of July 1st, drivers in Virginia are required to pass bicyclists with at least three feet. The Virginia General Assembly passed the legislation this spring after years of advocacy by WABA and the Virginia Bicycling Federation. Maryland, DC and now Virginia all require at least three feet of clearance when passing bicyclists.

DC Dept. of Public Works Pilots Sideguards

Large trucks can pose a significant safety risk to bicyclists. The DC Department of Public Works is piloting a few different designs for side underrun guards to prevent pedestrians and bicyclists from being pulled under a vehicle during a crash. WABA advocated for the passage of the Bicycle Safety Enhancement Act of 2008 which requires the DC Government to install side underrun guards.

DDOT to Build Suitland Parkway Trail Connection

The new South Capitol Street-Frederick Douglass Bridge will now include a direct and safe trail connection from the bridge to the Suitland Parkway Trail. Previous designs of the bridge omitted this vital trail connection and would have maintained the existing gap. WABA organized a petition effort in Ward 7 & 8 asking DDOT to add the trail connection to the plans. In June, DDOT announced they would build the trail connection.

MCDOT Rescinds Capital Crescent Trail Request

In August the Montgomery County Department of Transportation

quietly requested that the Maryland Transit Administration remove a tunnel under Jones Mill Road for the Capital Crescent Trail, despite a long-standing plan to build a completely grade-separated trail from Bethesda to Silver Spring along the Purple Line. WABA asked members in Montgomery County to contact the County Council asking to keep the safe trail crossing. MCDOT rescinded their request and the tunnel will be built.

Safe Accommodations during Construction in DC

The Bicycle Safety Amendment Act of 2013 includes a provision which requires future construction permits to provide "safe accommodations" for bicyclists and pedestrians. DDOT released draft regulations in August with guidelines for permit applicants about how to provide safe access during constructions. Final regulations are expected this fall. Future construction projects will be required to maintain access for people biking and walking. Hopefully this means no more blocked bike lanes.

A Rebuilt Rock Creek Park Trail is One Step Closer

At the end of June, the District Department of Transportation released the Final Environmental Assessment for the rehabilitation of the Rock Creek Park Multi-Use Trail. The final design could not be completed without this environmental document, which was holding up construction. WABA's petition this past spring gathered over 2,500 signatures asking NPS and DDOT to release the final EA. DDOT and NPS can now finalize the design, and construction could begin in some sections as early as next year.



vin Gaye Trail



Hauling gear to make a "Traffic Island."



Spreading the Bike Polite message



Pete brings the bike love to Fairfax



Nelle & Pete explore the new trail along Arlington Blvd

Hunting for Trail Treasures with the Trail Rangers

by Garrett Hennigan, Trail Ranger Coordinator

Last month more than 70 brave explorers came out to join in WABA's Anacostia Riverwalk Treasure Hunt. Sporting costumes, colorful headwear, impressive team branding, and almost giddy excitement, the 25 teams came prepared for some serious riddle sleuthing and river wandering.

Once out on the trail, teams fanned out in all directions to unravel a list of riddles and uncover the trail's hidden bounty. Some of these "Trail Treasures" – landmarks, sweeping views, riverside hideaways, and unexpected attractions – proved quite tricky, but well worth the trip.

Since the mark of a modern privateer is the right balance of braggery, skill, and tech savvy, teams collected points by tweeting and instagramming photos of their team at each trail treasure. With a little encouragement and so many sights and props for inspiration, teams dove headfirst into the competition with some great results.

For many riders, this adventure was a first time down on the river. We hope that the cheerful trail, wildlife for company, and so many activities, will keep them coming back! If you missed it, check out the photos on our flickr page and consider setting sail for the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail for a voyage of your own!

For the big extra spark of motivation and boatloads of prizes, we owe a rousing Thank You to our Prize Sponsors: Capitol Hill Bikes, Bluejacket, Ice Cream Jubilee, and Chipotle Mexican Grill.



Women & Bicycles: 2,000 Members!

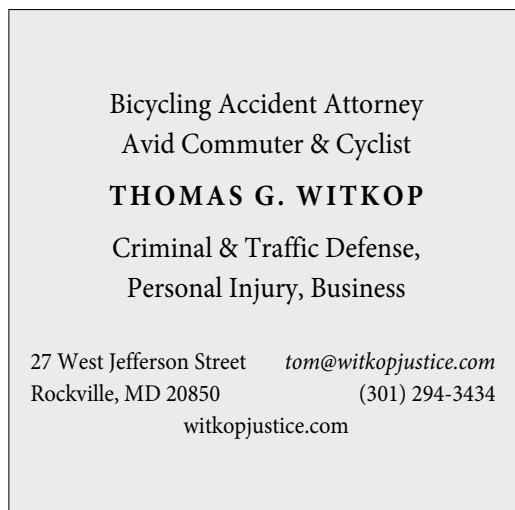
This season has been an exciting ride for our Women & Bicycles program. Our online forum has over 2,000 participants, 20 Roll Models are out mentoring their friends and family, and our weekly events bring together smiling faces throughout the region. And we ordered a limited edition bike jersey! Now a little over a year old, the program is being emulated in cities across the country. "I'm so inspired by the immediate impact this program has had," said Jenny from Silver Spring "clearly there was a void that's being brilliantly filled!"



August Roll Models

Keep spreading the bike love! Gals if you'd like to get involved as a mentor, attend our next Roll Model orientation and share biking with the women in your life! Email Nelle Pierson (nelle@waba.org) for more information!

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Thank you for being a WABA Member!

WABA represents the interests of bicyclists throughout the D.C. region. Since 1972 we have been the regional advocates for bicycling for health, transportation, and recreation. Our mission is to create a healthy, more livable region by promoting bicycling for fun, fitness, and affordable transportation; advocating for better bicycling conditions and transportation choices for a healthier environment; and educating children, adults, and motorists about safe bicycling.

We could not do this work without the financial stability your membership provides. Thank you.

As a WABA member, you enjoy incredible member benefits, including:

WABA-Related:

- ★ A team of advocates and organizers working every day to make biking better in our region.
- ★ Use of our complimentary bike boxes for travel
- ★ Subscription to RideOn, WABA's newsletter (Hi!)
- ★ WABA rides are members only!
- ★ Discounts from our many community partners, including transportation, health, and fitness-related businesses
- ★ Discounts at over 50 area bike shops



Do you own or manage a local business?

Join WABA as a Business Member and become part of our community of area cyclists. Whether your desire is to encourage a more bike-friendly environment for customers, employees, and the larger bicycling community, or to broaden your customer base, supporting WABA as a Business Member helps us build a truly bikeable region, where everyone can ride where they need to go safely and conveniently.

We offer two levels of business membership. Find the one that fits your business at waba.org/biz

For more information, contact Sarah Katz-Hyman at membership@waba.org or call (202) 518-0524 x 203

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7 RIDE»ON ★ FALL2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE CIDER RIDE
EARLY DECEMBER 2014

HOLIDAY PARTY
MID-DECEMBER 2014

★ PLUS ★

NEW EDUCATIONAL RIDES:

- Oct 1: **Gotta Get Up To Get Down**—Managing Hills in the City
- Oct 15: **Bike Lane Blitz**
Navigating new infrastructure
- Oct 29: **Round Round Get Around**—Dealing with traffic circles

★ AND ★

FUTURE TRAILS RIDES

- Oct. 4:** Ride the unbuilt trails of Southeast DC
- Oct. 11:** Ride a section of the WB&A Trail and learn how it will connect to the region’s trail network.

Details at waba.org

RIDE ON
FALL ★ 2014

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RIDE ON
FALL ★ 2014

We've printed your membership expiration date below your address. Make sure to renew your membership before it expires! Visit waba.org/renew or use the printed form on page 7.

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