



WASHINGTON  
AREA  
BICYCLIST  
ASSOCIATION

# RIDE » N

## SPRING ★ 2017

Volume 44 ★ Nº. 1

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Community Ride on the new Anacostia River Trail

**Overhaul of Contributory Negligence in DC.** After three years, our dogged campaign gathered 12,693 supportive emails, expert legal support, and a great deal of political will. An unjust law has been fixed.

**Launch of the region's Capital Trails Coalition.** With the generous support of REI, we launched a coalition of 40 non-profits, public agencies, park departments, and civic commissions to build a regional network of world-class trails.

**Passage of Virginia's Dooring Law.** Thanks to all of you who voiced your support, as well as our partners at Virginia Bicycling Federation, opening a car door into oncoming traffic in Virginia is now a ticketable offense.

**Opening of the Anacostia River Trail.** One of the most exciting trail developments is the completion of the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens section which connects 16 miles of trails in DC to 40 miles of trails in Maryland.

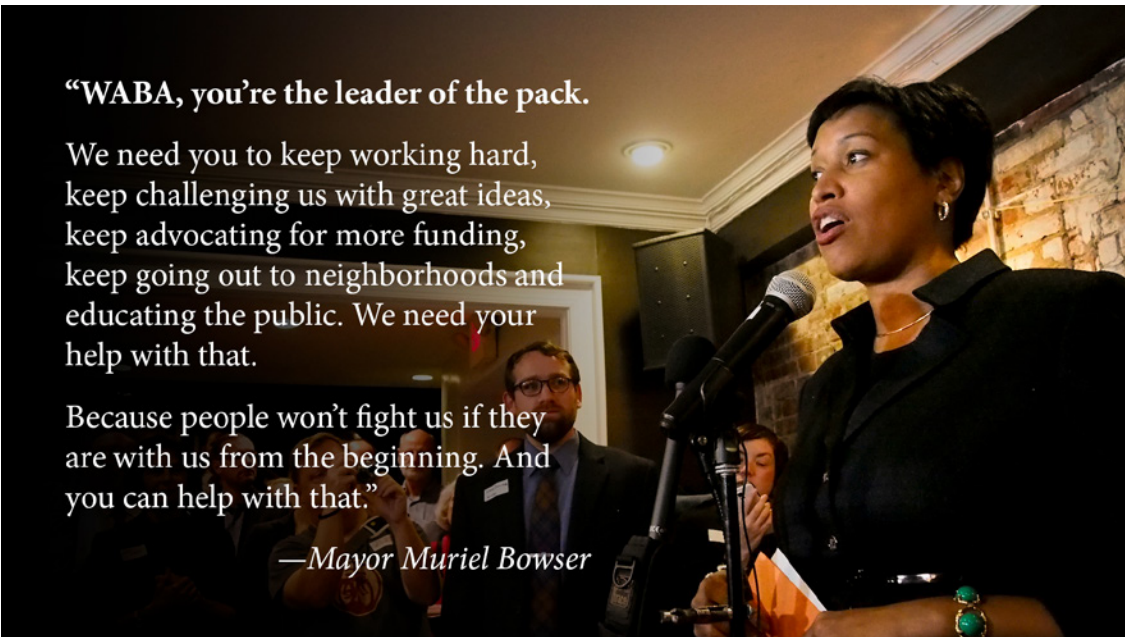
**Reconstruction of the Rock Creek Park trail.** After twenty years, we have worked so hard and we are finally getting a wider, safer, rebuilt trail in Rock Creek.

**More funding for bike infrastructure.** Our work with the Alexandria BPAC and hundreds of local advocates moved the City of Alexandria to add half a million dollars to its Complete Streets budget. In Montgomery County, WABA members secured \$9 million in new funding for world class bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

**First protected bike lane in downtown Silver Spring!** Our Montgomery County Action Committee successfully advocated for the county's very first. Construction is slated for this spring.

## ADVOCACY BY THE NUMBERS

- 54 official letters sent to decision-makers.
- 65 new advocates received in-depth training.
- 262 activists worked on regional action committees.
- 6,952 people signed petitions or contacted elected officials.



“WABA, you’re the leader of the pack.

We need you to keep working hard, keep challenging us with great ideas, keep advocating for more funding, keep going out to neighborhoods and educating the public. We need your help with that.

Because people won’t fight us if they are with us from the beginning. And you can help with that.”

—Mayor Muriel Bowser





In February, we celebrated the people who make our region a great place to bike, at our third annual **Bicyclists' Choice Awards**.

- Bike Friendliest Neighborhood or Business Improvement District in 2016:  
**Capitol Riverfront / Yards Park, DC**
- Best Bike Shop in 2016:  
**Proteus Bicycles**
- Best Social Ride in 2016:  
**Proteus Sunday Morning Coffee Ride**
- Bike Friendliest Business in 2016:  
**District Taco**
- WABA Public Leadership Award:  
**DC Councilmember Mary Cheh**
- WABA Advocate of the Year Award:  
**Chris Slatt, Chair of the Arlington County Transportation Committee**
- WABA Volunteer of the Year Award:  
**Lesly Jones**
- WABA Community Organizer Award:  
**Dustin Scott, Color of Cycling Organizer**
- WABA Future Trails Award:  
**Tara Morrison, Superintendent of National Capital Parks-East**
- WABA Biking For All Award:  
**Jessie Webb, DC Department of Parks and Recreation**
- WABA Protecting Bike Lanes Award:  
**Patricia Shepard, Montgomery County Department of Transportation**

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As WABA reflects on our success in the last decade, we owe a hearty thank you to our partners at Signal Financial FCU.

To show their support for our mission and bicyclists throughout the region, Signal Financial offers free credit union membership for all WABA members and they

promote biking in and around all their branches.

Signal Financial's support for biking also includes outreach events and promote bike confidence-boosting tips and tricks among their members.

We're grateful for backing from the region's bike-friendly credit union!

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# WABA PROGRAMS IN 2016



## TRAIL RANGERS

Trail Rangers are a consistent and helpful presence on DC's mixed use, paved trails, charged with assisting trail users, improving trail conditions, and working with city agencies to keep the trails clean, bright, and clear of obstacles. They pull trailers stocked with tools and are eager to help patch a flat, provide a quick fix, dish out maps and directions, or clear up glass and debris before it causes trouble. The Trail Ranger program connects District residents with the network of biking and walking trails right outside their doors. Friendly, welcoming rangers ride daily during summer months, offering advice and a helpful hand, and ensuring that the trails are clean, safe, and open to everyone.



## EVERYDAY BICYCLING

The everyday bicycling program offers on-bike classes and brown bag seminars to teach bicycling for transportation, fun and fitness. The on-bike classes range from learn to rides, which are for adults that can't ride a bike yet; to city cycling classes and community rides which are for adults looking to be more confident on the trail or empowered to feel the joy of biking to work. Finally, the everyday bicycling program goes to the workplace to host seminars during lunch to answer questions about riding in the region and encourage people to try commuting by bike.

## YOUTH & FAMILY

WABAs Family and Youth Education programs are working to support families to be able to travel safely by bike, whether it is taking two kids on a longtail to school, or riding to dinner with their elderly parents, families of all types deserve safe routes. WABA also provides youth bicycle safety education and programming in schools and at community events, teaching youth both how to ride and how to ride more safely. Every summer, Bike Camp! provides an engaging, safe place for kids to explore the city, develop skills, and have fun!



## DC BIKE AMBASSADORS & ARLINGTON PAL AMBASSADORS

Our Ambassador Programs are bicycle and pedestrian safety programs that educates anyone who lives, works or visits the District and Arlington about bicycling. The program strives to raise bicycling awareness within the city, promote bicycling, and to keep bicycling fun!

## WOMEN & BICYCLES

Women & Bicycles is designed to help women help women ride bikes. We host events, rides, and workshops to introduce the women who know to the women who have questions. Together, we'll ride more, ride better, and spread the love of bicycling.



## PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

**400** sets of free bike lights installed.

**100** outreach events in 2016.

**9,000** hours donated by over 800 volunteers to WABA!

**3,101** kids who took our bicycling safety education classes.

**794** adults who took our bicycling safety and education classes.

**483** adults taught how to ride a bike.

**550** people taught how to bike to work.

**122** miles ridden by BikeCampers.

**1772** miles ridden pulling our Bike PSA trailers.

**234** trash bags of debris pulled from trails.

**131** shifts of Trail Rangers on DC-owned trails.

**191** trail issues reported to 311.

**5,904** participants in Women & Bicycles.

**9,140** conversations at community events, fairs and expos.



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The Personal  
Injury Advocates

Qualifications, Honors, & Experience

Before choosing a law firm, use this checklist to consider its qualifications and experience ...	CSCS	Other Firm
3 partners selected to the 2016 Washington DC Super Lawyers list	✓	
3 partners recognized repeatedly by Washingtonian magazine as Washington’s “Top Lawyers” – one partner has been recognized every survey year since 1997, and one partner has been recognized every survey year since 2004	✓	
1 partner - Top 100 Washington DC Super Lawyers list for 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016	✓	
3 partners - Past Presidents of the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.	✓	
2 partners - Co-Founders and current President and Vice President of the Brain Injury Association of the District of Columbia	✓	
1 partner - Member of Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Association of America	✓	
The law firm was selected as "Preferred Attorneys" by the Brain Injury Association of America for the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area	✓	
The law firm and all 3 partners are rated "AV Preeminent"--the highest available—by lawyer-rating service Martindale-Hubbell®	✓	
2 partners are board-certified civil trial attorneys by the National Board of Trial Advocacy	✓	
3 partners with over 90 years of cumulative experience	✓	
Licensed in MD, DC and VA	✓	

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#bikeKINDly

We’re big fans of KIND Snacks, both because we believe in their work, and because they make our jobs easier and more delicious as our in-kind snack sponsor. We started working with KIND when they wanted to treat our Vasa riders with blueberry KIND bars to complement their blueberry soup. Since then, we’ve co-created the Bike KINDly campaign, where our ambassador and outreach staff hand out KIND Healthy Snacks along bike lanes, at major intersections, and at events. Each bar is labeled with an important bike tip, like riding with bike lights or yielding to pedestrians.

We’re teaming up with KIND throughout 2017 so that we can provide you with healthy snacks and biking kindness at all our major events, all our classes, and through our Bike KINDly outreach!

#LiveKIND & #BikeKINDly!



# MEMBERSHIP IN 2016

## WHY ARE YOU A WABA MEMBER?

In 2016 we completed a broad membership survey.

We asked, among other things, "Why are you a WABA member?"

Here's what you said:

*"Because DC has so much bike infrastructure that other communities don't have, and it didn't come about by accident. WABA has been fighting for decades to get us where we are now. They've accomplished a ton, but there's still a ton more to do."*

*"Because biking makes me feel like a kid again. It is adventurous and one of the few times in my life that I get to enjoy the journey and not the destination. I prefer group rides for the camaraderie, to enjoy the outdoors and nature. The exercise is just a bonus."*

*"Because I believe bicycling empowers people and enables us to improve the city and future for all."*

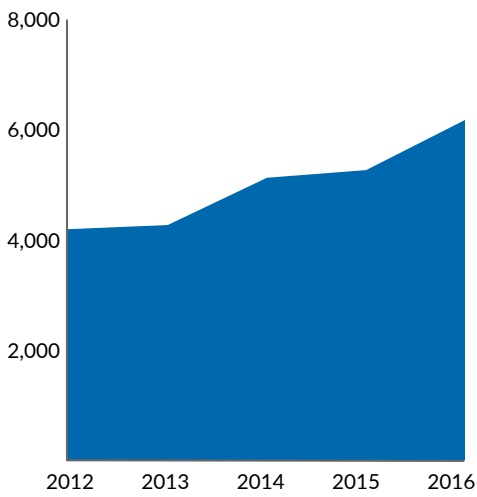
*"Because the Women & Bikes program has been immensely important in getting me on my bike more, improving my knowledge about gear, and knowing that there are other women out there on their bikes doing awesome things, or just trying not to fall over, like me. :)"*



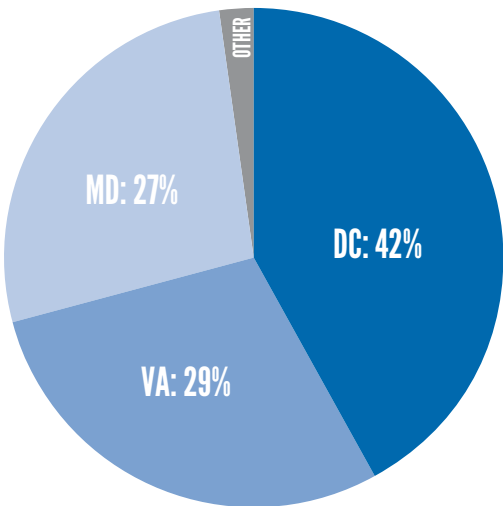
## MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

- 6,187 Members on 12/31/16.
- 2,628 New members in 2016.
- 22,155 residents who participated in a WABA event.
- 85,434 miles ridden on WABA rides.
- 10,500 hours spent riding bikes to fundraise for better biking.

### 5 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP GROWTH:



### WHERE OUR MEMBERS LIVE:



## 2016 LEADERSHIP LEVEL BUSINESS MEMBERS

- car2go
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- Primal Wear
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- Takoma Bicycle
- Toole Design Group LLC
- Thomas Witkop, Esq.

## 2016 BUSINESS MEMBERS

- American Diabetes Association
- BicycleSPACE
- Bike and Roll DC
- Bikes to Borrow
- Capitol Hill Bikes
- CareFirst
- Center for Plastic Surgery
- Conte's Bike Shop
- DC Cycling Concierge
- Duboff & Associates
- Events DC
- Forster Law Firm
- Grip Unlimited
- HandyBikes DC
- Island Press
- Mad Bomber
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Patrick's Pet Care
- Phil & Jeanne Team
- Planet Bike
- Recess Outings
- Streetwize Foundation
- ToteBagFactory
- Tower Companies
- Two Wheel Valet
- Wiebenson & Dorman Architects

Did you know we offer memberships for businesses too? more at [waba.org/biz](http://waba.org/biz)

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 DONORS

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District Taco  
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Drink More Water  
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Bike The Wharf  
Family Bike Shop  
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Freshbikes Bethesda  
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We do our best to make sure this list is complete, but sometimes we make mistakes.

If something doesn't look right, let us know!

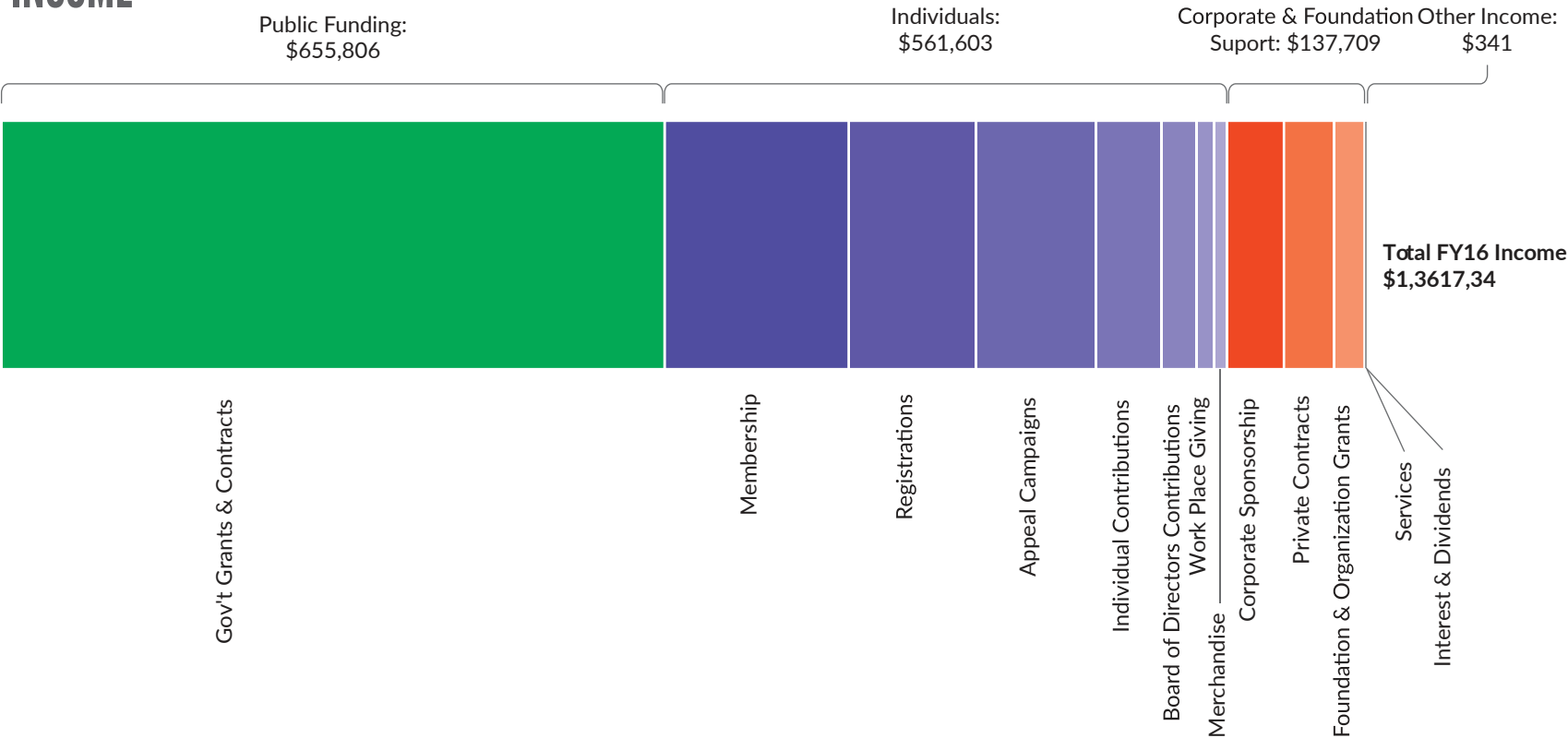
development@waba.org



OUR 2016 FINANCIALS

Preliminary and unaudited FY2016 financials as February 22nd, 2017. Previous financial statements are online at [waba.org/financials](http://waba.org/financials)

INCOME



EXPENSES



RideOn is published quarterly by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association  
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(or by returning this form with payment)

Membership Levels:

- Individual Level ☐ \$35  
(\$30 if you auto-renew!)
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- Sustaining Member (WABA T-Shirt!) ☐ \$100
- Jersey Club Member (WABA Jersey!) ☐ \$500
- T-Shirt/Jersey Size (S-XL) \_\_\_\_\_
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WABA STAFF, FEBRURARY 2017

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

# 2016 Annual Report

Hello friends of WABA,

The past year was extraordinary for WABA. I am proud to lead such a strong and effective organization with a clear mission: to make bicycling popular, practicable, and safe for everyone, no matter where or why they ride. I invite you to explore this report in full. Inside, you'll find details of our efforts, celebrations of our successes, and clear indicators of the progress we've made towards realizing our vision.

At the end of 2015 we released our 2020 Strategic Plan, outlining our strategies to achieve WABA's two overarching goals – tripling the number of people riding bikes by 2020 and increasing the scale and connectivity of our bicycle network by 2035. These directives helped us focus in our public outreach, advocacy campaigns, education programs, community events, and fundraising.

We have many wins and successes to highlight:

- ★ Our education program nearly doubled the number of adults in our classes.
- ★ Individual and business memberships continue to grow year-to-year.
- ★ In October, we launched the Capital Trails Coalition, a partnership of more than 40 government agencies, non-profit organizations, and

community groups working together to expand the regional trail network.

We are getting more people on bikes, growing our organization, and developing more sophisticated and sustainable advocacy strategies to advance our vision across the region.

And yet, there are still many challenges ahead. The national tone is divisive and draws much-needed attention away from local organizations and decision-making. There is still resistance to biking on our roadways in planning offices and behind steering wheels. Much of the 'low-hanging fruit' —projects that are easy to design, approve, and build— has been plucked, and future efforts will be more difficult, more expensive, and harder-fought.

But, we are lucky to live in a community that values inclusion and diversity. We've found strong, capable allies to help address economic inequity, tear down entrenched and archaic systems, and rebuild strained community relations. Through our advocacy and our education work, WABA will always focus on addressing equity by listening, learning, aiding, and connecting communities. Our work uplifts our friends and neighbors by addressing mobility issues, public health concerns, environmental degradation, and overall quality of life.

The staff works exceptionally hard, but WABA is more than just one office full of dedicated advocates. WABA is, and always has been, a community. We thrive on the work you and our 6,000 members contribute to better bicycling. We are the families riding together, the late-night commuter, the delivery cyclist, the volunteers up at dawn, the weekend mountain bikers, the generous individual and corporate donors, the tireless government partners, the business members who give back, and so many more. WABA is a community which empowers this organization and inspires one another to always keep moving forward. Thank you for your work in the last year, and thank you for support in 2017.

Sincerely,

Gregory Billing  
Executive Director



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