



December 10, 2021

To: People Before Cars Coalition Members

Jay Corbalis, JBG Smith
Rob Mandle, National Landing BID
Malaika Scriven, National Landing BID
Chris Slatt, Sustainable Mobility for Arlington County
Gillian Burgess, Arlington Families for Safe Streets
Jeremiah Lowery, Washington Area Bicyclist Association

From:

Leah Gerber, DES Transportation Planning
Dan Nabors, DES TE&O Assistant Bureau Chief
Kevin Casadei, DES TE&O Design Team Supervisor
Nate Graham, DES Communications and Engagement

CC:

Dennis Leach, DES Deputy Director, Director of Transportation
Sarah Crawford, DES Transportation Assistant Director
Valerie Mosley, DES TPCPM Bureau Chief
Hui Wang, DES TE&O Bureau Chief

RE: Crystal City Bike Network feedback meeting September 13, 2021

Dear PBC Coalition Members,

Thank you for your thoughtfully considered feedback on the Crystal City Bike Network, received in a conference call on September 13, 2021. We appreciate the time you have all taken to contribute to the public process for the development of the CCBN and for the time you spent developing the feedback that you shared with us.

The project team has spent the time since our meeting working with colleagues across DES Transportation to review the additional feedback you provided and explore the feasibility of your requests for potential incorporation into the CCBN improvements.

We have provided a status update on our progress below, but many of these conversations and due diligence investigations are ongoing. Please note that the most recent edition of the CCBN report may not include any of these proposed changes.

To continue advancing this important work, the CCBN report will move forward while the additional investigations continue. If these proposed changes can be included, we will add them to the network, even if it is after the draft report to the County Board is finalized.

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Issue 1: 1900 Block of Crystal Drive

What we heard:

The PBC Coalition expressed a general interest in maintaining the existing northbound lane in addition to the new southbound protected bike lane proposed in the most recent version of the CCBN and asked the project team to explore removing the existing center turn lane to achieve this cross-section.

What we've done:

The project team is currently exploring the feasibility of the requested changes within TE&O through a traffic analysis, as well as coordinating with our colleagues in the Development Services Bureau to ensure that key internal and external stakeholders for this segment are engaged in the CCBN process and can provide input on this potential change.

What comes next:

Once TE&O achieves consensus on the feasibility of the requested changes, we'll update you on the decision and provide information on how it was reached and share information with the public. We will then update the CCBN to reflect any changes that may apply.

Issue 2: Crystal Drive between 15th Street S. & 18th Street S.

What we heard:

The PBC Coalition supports the proposed plan for this segment of the CCBN and asked the project team to consider installing vertical separation elements directly on top of the striping for the bike lane to ensure that vehicles do not block the existing standard bike lanes for pick-up and drop-off.

What we've done:

The project team has reviewed this segment of Crystal Drive with operations staff from TE&O, as well as colleagues from Water Sewer Streets and Arlington County Fire Department for maintenance and fire access concerns.

What comes next:

We can commit to using vertical elements to further delineate the bike lane on this block as a pilot project during the delivery of the CCBN improvements, with exact placement of these elements to be determined during implementation. The pilot project will consider the effectiveness of these treatments in discouraging bike lane blocking, the maintenance costs incurred, and any potential impacts to emergency access.

Issue 3: 12th Street S. between Long Bridge Drive & Crystal Drive

What we heard:

A request to incorporate a sidewalk-level multi-use trail on the north side of this segment of 12th Street S. into the CCBN, connecting the forthcoming cycle track underneath Route 1 connecting Army Navy Drive and the new multi-use trail on S. Clark/Bell Street with the Long Bridge Esplanade and future connections to Washington DC.



What we've done:

The project team reviewed the request and background information from relevant past and present capital projects, site plan documentation, and other available resources.

Following this review, it was concluded that we cannot expand the scope of the improvements to alter streetscape along 12th Street as part of the CCBN. The request on this segment of 12th Street is not feasible given existing development and utilities under the sidewalk, the limitations of available right-of-way, and falls outside of the four-year implementation timeline.

The County is focused on delivering the first phase of a high-quality transit facility extension that implements guidance in the Crystal City Sector Plan and other related planning documents. Consistent with DPR's vision for the Long Bridge Park Esplanade, the County does not plan to route through bicycle traffic on the Esplanade, which was planned, designed, and constructed as a pedestrian priority facility. Rather, we anticipate routing cyclists traveling on the Long Bridge bicycle and pedestrian bridge to Long Bridge Drive, connecting with the future trail on South Clark Street that will be completed as part of the 15th Street South / Clark-Bell Realignment project.

What comes next:

The project team will continue to work towards delivering bicycle facilities that provide desired network connectivity in this area that are feasible within the four-year time frame. These facilities include a multi-use trail on S. Clark/Bell Street from 12th Street S to 18th Street S that will connect with the Army Navy Drive cycle track, as well as existing bicycle facilities on Long Bridge Drive. As mentioned, bicycle facilities on Long Bridge Drive will be enhanced over time to serve the upcoming Long Bridge connection from Washington D.C.

County staff are already exploring the ways that we can prepare to integrate our network of bike facilities in Crystal City and Pentagon City with the important forthcoming connection via Long Bridge to the regional trail network and the District of Columbia. An interdepartmental team including DOT and DPR staff is also exploring how to improve connections between the future Long Bridge facility and the existing biking and walking facilities in Crystal City and Pentagon City.

These conversations are ongoing and involve key internal and external stakeholders. We will share more about the progress and direction with the PBC Coalition as soon as we are able, as we share your keen interest in ensuring that the future bike network is connected to this new regional crossing.

Issue 4: A long-term vision for bicycling in Crystal City

What we heard:

Recognition of the time constraints for the current CCBN improvement process, but an interest in a more comprehensive vision for bicycle planning and project delivery in the medium and long term for the Crystal City and Pentagon City to ensure that things that cannot be delivered in by the 2024 CCBN deadline are not lost.



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What we've done:

The project team and DOT leadership reviewed current planning documents governing bicycling in Crystal City, including the Crystal City Sector Plan (2010) and the Master Transportation Plan Bike Element (2019). It was determined that these plans provide sufficient long-term vision for bicycling in Crystal City, and they extend beyond the 2024 timeline for the CCBN.

What comes next:

Arlington DOT affirms its commitment to delivering safe, effective bicycle facilities through all our program efforts, from resurfacing to capital projects to development services. Staff will continue to deliver on this promise beyond the delivery of the CCBN and ensure that we resolve any conflicts between guidance documents in a transparent and reasonable manner.

On behalf of everyone working to deliver the CCBN improvements within the timeline set by the County Board, we want to thank you all for your concerted efforts to shape and deliver this project. We sincerely appreciate your time and recognize the significant contributions you've made to the final network.

Delivering this project will bring more opportunities for your contributions, and we hope to continue collaborating with you on this opportunity to bring more bicycle facilities to Crystal City at a moment of significant change and development.

Sincerely,

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Division of Transportation and Development Services

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