



50 Years of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association

It was 1972, two years after Earth Day and one year before the U.S. was wracked by skyrocketing gasoline prices and long lines at gas stations. The demand for a healthful, environmentally-friendly, gasoline-free transportation technology—the bicycle—was soaring, but the Washington, D.C. area was thoroughly inhospitable to cycling by anyone other than the most fearless and brazen.

It was at that moment that the Washington Area Bicyclist Association was born.

Today, 50 years later, the Washington area's roadways are almost unrecognizably improved for non-motorized travel, and the streetscapes are filled with thousands of bicyclists pedaling for purposeful and recreational uses, day and night.

At this momentous half-century mark of citizen and government effort, we pause to recognize, commemorate and celebrate the achievements of the greater Washington bicycling community and the vast bicycling improvements in the District-Maryland-Virginia region.

The 50th Anniversary Jubilee

The WABA 50th Anniversary Jubilee will take place in October, 2022 to look back on WABA's history and to raise funds for another 50 years of activism, working to make this a region where biking, walking, and transit are the best ways to get around.

At this event, a fundraising fete to be held at a venue in Washington, DC, WABA members, donors, supporters, advocates and partners will gather to eat, drink, hear from key figures in WABA and the regional transportation field to celebrate 50 years of accomplishments and launch a bold vision for the next 50 of making bicycling better and streets safer in the Washington, DC region.

Goals of the Jubilee

- Raising \$50,000 for WABA
- Publicizing improvement of Washington-area bicycling and the role of WABA

- Recognition of the achievements of hundreds of activists and advocates over the decades
- Educating WABA members and the public of the vision for the future of Washington area bicycling and active transportation

The Host Committee

The Jubilee's Host Committee consists of a group of dedicated friends and activists, old and new, who oversee the events of the 50th anniversary and who lead efforts to publicize the celebration and assure that it generates significant income for the continuation of WABA into the future.

Specific Host Committee responsibilities include:

- Purchasing an event ticket, making a personally meaningful contribution towards WABA's 50th Anniversary Year, and fundraising a minimum of \$1000 from your network. (See below for the support you'll receive from staff to set and meet your personal fundraising goal!)
- Offering your name to event materials
- Publicizing the event through your network and inviting friends and colleagues to attend
- Joining a subcommittee (details below!) and taking part in periodic planning calls about the October event and to share fundraising progress and strategies

Host Committee Co-Chairs

Specific Host Committee Co-Chair responsibilities include all of the above, plus:

- Chairing meetings of the Committee
- Serving as a conduit, as necessary, between the Committee members and the WABA staff
- Working with WABA staff to develop planning meeting agendas

Subcommittees

Host Committee members have the opportunity to join subcommittees:

Event Planning Subcommittee— Work with WABA staff on event logistics, including reaching out to potential beverage sponsors, researching venues and caterers, determining speakers and other programmatic elements. This committee will have monthly calls with WABA Development Manager Anna McCormally.

Celebration Lap Subcommittee – Work with WABA staff to host a mini-fundraiser celebrating a bicycling win in the Washington, DC region from the last 50 years (for example, the Metropolitan Branch Trail Celebration Lap Subcommittee might organize a fundraising community ride to celebrate the history and progress of the MBT!)

Story Collection Subcommittee – Work with WABA staff to collect WABA memories, stories, and photos to put together a photo slideshow and displays featuring proud moments and partnerships from WABA and DC region bicycling history.

History Project Subcommittee – Collaborate on a written history of WABA.

Documentary Subcommittee – Work to commission and/or produce a video documentary about WABA's history.

WABA Organizational Support

WABA staff is taking the lead on all logistics for the October event, including:

- Spending and tracking a budgeted \$11,000 for event expenses
- Researching and confirming venue and catering
- Confirming keynote speaker, event host, and other programmatic details
- Staffing, set-up, audio-visual, and clean-up on event day

In addition, the WABA Development team is here to help host committee members set and meet fundraising goals! We will...

- Schedule a call to help you set a fundraising strategy
- Help with registration, waivers, and promotion for Celebration Lap mini-fundraisers hosted by committee members.
- Track donations to the 50th Anniversary Year (from ticket sales, celebration lap fundraisers, and other 50th Anniversary outreach)
- Keep the host committee updated on individual and total progress

Ready to join the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Host Committee, or have questions about the role or event?

Contact Anna McCormally, Development Manager (development@waba.org).

