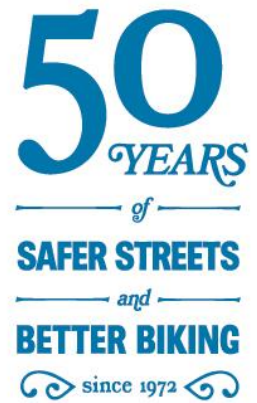




September 27, 2022



Dear Falls Church City Council

On behalf of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and our more than 7,500 members in the Washington region, I write to say that WABA is here to support you and Bike Falls Church in your efforts to make biking safe and accessible to all residents.

There are passionate bicycle riders in and around Falls Church City, and many more people who would ride if they felt encouraged and safe. For years WABA and FABB have worked with these people and the Fairfax and Arlington governments to help create the improving bicycle infrastructure you see in those jurisdictions, the classes that are held regularly to educate kids and adults on bicycling, and the events that help build a bicycle-friendly culture.

Falls Church City lacked any advocacy engagement with Council until this year, but we're so glad that Bike Falls Church has taken up that mission. This place could be amazing for bicycling and is an important link between your neighboring jurisdictions. We've seen elsewhere that it does not take a lot of time or money to make our streets safer for bicyclists and other micromobility, but it does take commitment and a willingness to learn.

Your City goals of shifting mode share away from cars, reducing injuries on the road, reducing carbon emissions, and maintaining a village character all sound very much in line with encouraging bicycling.

Unfortunately, traffic deaths are on the rise in Virginia, so now is the time for Falls Church to step up and be an example for the rest of the state, to show that it is possible to have sustainable, safe and connected transportation for all road users.

Let's get to work.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Lowery  
Advocacy Director