



WASHINGTON AREA
BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



50 YEARS
of
SAFER STREETS
and
BETTER BIKING
since 1972



Letter from the Executive Director

February 2023

This past year, WABA celebrated its 50th anniversary. As we reflected on the tremendous growth in grassroots and policymaker support for safe, just, and sustainable transportation in our region, I was struck by how far we've come. We've seen progress— like the rate of new bike lane construction in DC— that would have been unimaginable even 5 years ago, let alone in 1972.

Together over the last 50 years, WABA and our members have come a long way in promoting and securing alternative modes of transportation, winning new trails and bike lanes, and increasing attention from public officials for needed infrastructure. Funding for these projects has also jumped in recent years across local, state, and federal governments. And, there is increasing recognition that non-car modes of transit are good for people, for communities, and for the environment.

Building on the growing movement for safe streets and the surge in bicycling during the pandemic, we had some big wins in 2022: the year-round closure of four miles of Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park, major strides in DC's Low Stress Network (including hard-won projects, like the 9th St Safety Project, that advocates spent years fighting for!), and funding for key connections in the Capital Trails Network in

Maryland and Virginia. And, WABA continued to offer high-quality bicycling courses, expanded learn to ride programs in schools, and provided maintenance for DC's multi-use trails.

While these are victories worth celebrating, we also know that we have a long way to go to make the greater Washington region truly user-friendly for kids, seniors, those with disabilities, and those who simply choose not to drive. The number of deaths from traffic violence has increased when it should be diminishing—to zero. And so, we know we have work to do.

WABA's mission remains timely and critical. There is strong momentum for our work, and thanks to the support of members and donors who come to bicycling for all different reasons, we are in a position to push forward with our vision of people-friendly streets and a just, sustainable transportation system. To all of you and to our many community, government, and nonprofit partners throughout the region: thank you. Together, we are building a greener and more equitable transportation and recreation system that serves all our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" being more prominent than the last name "Meyer".

Julie Meyer
Interim Executive Director

RIDE TOGETHER



What better way to celebrate the joy of bicycling than going for a ride? Here are some of the ways WABA got butts on bikes in 2022:

1,678 bicyclists checked into WABA's Signature Rides (and ate almost as many bananas!)

WABA's Sweet Ride, 50 States Ride, and Cider Ride took bicyclists all over the Alexandria, Arlington, the District, and Prince Georges' County trails.

76 Ride Marshals supported their fellow bicyclists at rides

Route testing, navigation, helping fix a flat, and cheering each other on up big hills and on tough miles... WABA's volunteer Ride Marshals are confident, friendly volunteers who make group rides safer—and more fun.

6 Trail Rangers rode 8,030 miles—and collected over 1,000 bags of glass and trash.

In 2022 Trail Rangers hosted weekly pop up tabling and monthly trail clean ups on DC trails. Their friendly presence, routine trail maintenance, and support through projects like installing new trail counters makes DC's trails more accessible and fun for all users.

5,454 first time riders joined Bike to Work Day

With the biggest presence since pre-COVID-19, these new riders joined thousands of returning commuters for this beloved annual event.

LEARN TOGETHER



A youth Learn to Ride Class

WABA empowers people to ride bikes through educational programs for people of all ages. In 2022, we had:

37 League Cycling Instructors

League of American Bicyclist certified instructors teach WABA's Learn 2 Ride and City Cycle classes and guide community rides. This year, WABA and the League co-hosted an LCI seminar training a new cohort of bicyclists to teach and get more people riding.

521 new bicyclists

WABA's Learn to Ride classes in DC, Maryland, and Virginia get people of all ages rolling on two wheels.

16 Confident City Cycle classes

This class empowers bicyclists to ride safely and confidently with traffic in urban environments.

ACT TOGETHER



A Virginia advocate meetup

WABA members and supporters are transforming what our region's streets looked like. Here are some of the ways neighbors showed up with WABA in the last year:

13 volunteer-led Low Stress Network neighborhood campaigns

Volunteers came together with their neighbors to make significant strides in building and showing local support for pieces of DC's Low Stress Network of protected bike lanes. The hyperlocal focus of each individual campaign made them all the more powerful.

12 Monthly Advocacy Meetups

These virtual meetups continue to be a space for advocacy training, campaign strategy workshops, legislation review, and tactical coordination among campaigns. Most importantly, small breakout groups created space for advocates to find agreement on priorities, launch

campaigns, and welcome new people into the community.

12,000 emails and phone calls to legislators from 2,498 regional residents

This is what keeping the pressure on looks like! WABA's action alerts and info at waba.org/action make it easy for regional residents to tell their elected officials what they want their neighborhood streets to look like.

1,800 participants for Ride for Your Life

WABA was a proud sponsor of this powerful event, which Daniel Langenkamp organized in memory of his wife Sarah Debbink Langenkamp. Retracing the ride Sarah took downtown the day of her fatal crash, participants rode to Congress, where the group presented a petition to the Administration and Congress asking for safer trucking regulations and new funding for street safety.



Beach Drive: Open for people all year round.

Change You Can Bike and Walk On

In 2022, wheels hit pavement in protected bike lanes and trails. Here are a few of the hardest-fought victories WABA won with your support:

Beach Drive

Thanks to the work of thousands of volunteer advocates, four miles of upper Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park are open for people, for good.

9th St NW Safety Project

This new protected cycletrack, stretching from Florida Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue, fills a critical gap in DC's bike lane network.

Metropolitan Branch Trail to Fort Totten

A new extension of the Metropolitan Branch Trail links Union Station through Brookland to Fort Totten. This

trail has been in the works for decades, and when it's done it will connect Silver Spring to downtown DC, as well as linking to the Capital Crescent Trail

The 295 Trail

This yet-unnamed trail located in Ward 8 parallels I-295 and creates a low-stress connection across the busy intersection between Malcom X Ave and I-295. It will eventually connect to the Oxon Run Trail.

Old Georgetown Road

WABA celebrated the opening of 2 miles of protected bike lanes on Old Georgetown Road in North Bethesda. This long-needed improvement to this deadly corridor has been too long in the making— and indicates an opportunity for more people-centered roadway improvements from the Maryland State Highway Administration.



Construction on the Hyattsville Trolley Trail

Getting Ready to Roll

Changes to our streets and trails takes time. The following projects saw big leaps forward in the form of political support and funding in 2022— and WABA is keeping the pressure on in 2023 to make sure they move from paper to pavement in the coming years.

Crystal City Bike Network

WABA won this plan in partnership with the People Before Cars Coalition. The first phase will include protected contraflow bike lanes in National Landing.

Long Bridge Bike and Pedestrian Span

The Capital Trails Coalition is celebrating dedicated funding to build a truly great car-free connection from Arlington and the Mount Vernon Trail to DC

South Capitol Street Trail

...as well as funding for a new walking

and biking trail in Ward 8 that will connect to the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail (and move the region 3.8 miles closer to a completed Capital Trails Network.)

Hyattsville Trolley Trail

After years of delay, your advocacy won groundbreaking on construction to fill the gap in the Hyattsville Trolley Trail—a much needed connection in Prince George’s County that will keep people walking and biking safe from traffic on Rhode Island Avenue.

Connecticut Avenue

This protected bike lane is a bold reimagining of what streets can look like, making it possible to travel safely from Woodley Park to Chevy Chase without a car, and protecting people who travel by foot, bike, and transit between the businesses, restaurants, and residences along this busy corridor.



A Ward 5 Advocate Meetup

Better Bicycling = Safer Streets = Better Bicycling

At WABA we know streets that welcome bicycling are also streets that welcome people walking, scooting, getting pushed along in their stroller, and using mobility devices. Right now, most of our region's streets aren't designed to accommodate all the people who want to travel outside of a motor-vehicle. The consequences are crowded sidewalks, bicyclists merging into high speed traffic, kids crossing multiple major intersections just to get to school, and an unacceptable annual number of serious injuries and traffic fatalities.

To achieve our vision of a region where walking, biking, and transit are the best ways to get around, WABA works at the places where bicycling intersects with other transportation issues, building safe streets for everyone.

Safe Streets Legislation in DC

Thanks to persistent advocacy, the DC Council passed transformative safe streets legislation that will make it safer for kids to get to school, permanently designate money from traffic violations to traffic safety improvements and— in a massive step towards a more equitable transportation system—making Metrobus FREE to ride.

230 advocates, elected officials, and agency staff attended the 2022 Vision Zero Summit.

The 6th annual Washington Region Vision Zero Summit took place over Zoom, and featured over a dozen panelists from across DC, Maryland, and Virginia. The takeaway? Getting to safe streets will require a multi-pronged approach involving safe road users, safe vehicles, safe speeds, safe roads, and post-crash care.



WABA's first petition drive, February, 1973.

Celebrating 50 Years of WABA

In October, WABA Board President Joanne Neukirchen, and Host Committee Co-Chairs Peter Harnik and Linda Keenan welcomed over 250 attendees to WABA’s 50th Anniversary Jubilee, held at District Winery in Washington DC.

Courtesy of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge was lit up in WABA orange and blue, a tribute to the thousands of WABA members and volunteers who have worked since 1972 to make the Washington, DC region a great place to ride a bike.

Event attendees included former board and staff from over the years, members and donors from across the region, and representatives from local agencies and community-based organizations who partner with WABA to make the region a place where walking, biking, and transit are the best ways to get around.

WABA also welcomed a slate of speakers to the event: WABA founder Cary Shaw; Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh; DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and District Department of Transportation Director Everett Lott;



United States Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg



DC Mayor Muriel Bowser



DDOT Director Everett Lott & WABA Board President Joanne Neukirchen



WABA Founder Cary Shaw-

and Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation Polly Trottenberg, who thanked WABA’s members for their dedicated advocacy and affirming the Biden Administration’s commitment to equity, safety, and sustainability in transportation.

DC Mayor Muriel Bowser remarked on the partnership between WABA and the District government agencies that has had such a positive impact on bicycling conditions and transportation in the city—including, as of 2022, 100 miles of bike lanes in Washington, DC.

WABA’s 50th anniversary was an opportunity to reflect on the progress we’ve won and changes we’ve seen over the decades. But one thing hasn’t changed: with over 7,500 members

across the region, WABA’s supporters remain the heart of the organization. Over the last 50 years, WABA’s founding members have fought, won, and inspired new generations of advocates to the cause.

“As bicycling and safer streets advocates can attest: progress doesn’t happen overnight,” said WABA Board President Joanne Neukirchen in her remarks at the event. “It happens because people keep showing up, and keep fighting. I know WABA is going to continue showing up for the fight. We have a strong staff. We have a bold strategic plan guiding us through 2025. And, we have you: our dedicated, generous supporters. We simply wouldn’t be where we are today without you.”

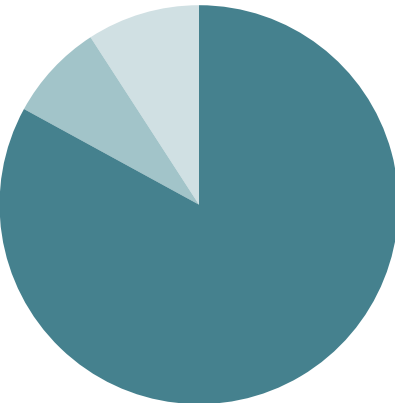


The Frederick Douglass Bridge, lit up in WABA's Orange and Blue colors for the Jubilee Celebration

FINANCIALS



2022 Income		
	Government Grants	\$1,473,309.75
	Individual Giving	\$682,135.50
	Corporate & Foundation Support	\$395,220.17
	Events	\$182,114.96
	Miscellaneous	\$12,735.74
	Total Revenue	\$2,745,516.12



2022 Expenses		
	Programs	\$2,178,150.85
	Fundraising	\$240,289.28
	G&A*	\$207,126.47
	Total Expenses	\$2,625,566.60

* G&A includes WABA’s office rent for programs



WASHINGTON AREA
BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

Staff

IN 2022

Rob Brown
DC TRAIL RANGER

Colin Browne
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Pedro Dana
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Akyra Davis
EVENTS & PARTNERSHIPS
COORDINATOR

Raymond D'Souza
BOOKKEEPER

Peter Gray
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
ORGANIZER

Garrett Hennigan
ORGANIZING MANAGER

Ezra Hollander
TRAIL RANGER OPERATIONS
MANAGER

Jonathan Kincade
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

Kalli Krumpas
TRAILS COALITION MANAGER

Jeremiah Lowery
ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

Nick Mariotti
OPERATIONS MANAGER

Natty McAlpine
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Anna McCormally
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Julie Meyer
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patricia Miguel
TRAIL RANGER OUTREACH
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CAPITAL TRAILS COALITION
COORDINATOR

Trey Robinson
DC BIKE AMBASSADOR
COORDINATOR

Antonio Rodriguez
DC TRAIL RANGER

Sydney Sotelo
EDUCATION & OUTREACH
MANAGER

Jonathan Stafford
CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT
MANAGER

Maceo Thomas
DC TRAIL RANGER

Stephanie Tulowetzke
VISION ZERO CAMPAIGN
MANAGER

Jeff Wetzel
DC TRAIL RANGER

Agyei Williams
DC TRAIL RANGER

Taylor Williams
YOUTH & FAMILY COORDINATOR

Jeslyn Zakes
DATABASE MANAGER

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IN 2022

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Nick Johnson, Secretary
John Days
Llewelyn Engel
Alison Foster
Debra Lane
Jim Sebastian
Mishal Thadani
Marya Torrez
Shelley Vinyard

Emeritus Council

WABA's Emeritus Council
includes Board and staff
leadership alumni:

Scott Barash
Mark Blacknell
Keya Chatterjee
Paul Demaio
Kendall Dorman
Bruce Dwyer
Eric Fingerhut
Eric Gilliland
Greg Billing
Peter Harnik
Paul Heaton
Joe Howard
Linda Keenan
Barbara Kleforth
Emily Littleton
Martin Moulton
Randall Myers
Bo Pham
Cary Shaw, WABA's Founder
Carl Turpin
Jim Titus



WASHINGTON AREA
BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

Contact **development@waba.org** to learn more about anything covered here, to hear more about our work, or to make an investment in WABA.

waba.org/give