



Key Updates, January-March 2024

Capital Trails Coalition

Plenty of progress to celebrate as we expand and improve the Capital Trail Network:

- Forward movement on the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail Extension and National Arboretum Access Bridge, which will add a new connection for people walking, biking and rolling between DC's Wards 5 and 7.
- A New Crosswalk for the Rock Creek Park Trail crossing of Beach Drive to the Piney Branch Trail
- Progress on the Metropolitan Branch Trail: Construction of the Metropolitan Branch Trail continues as the trail is extended along First Street and along Riggs Road from the Fort Totten Metro Station.
- Construction on the Sparrow Pond Connection, which will connect Sparrow Pond on the W&OD Trail to Four Mile Run

Low Stress Network

DC dealt bicycling advocates a huge blow by announcing that the plans for Connecticut Ave. NW have been revised to eliminate the planned bike lane. The bike lane was part of the "Concept C" design that Mayor Bowser approved, with support from a majority of affected ANCs, in 2021. We also continue to fight for the Low Stress Network, including:

- Protected bike lanes on Q and R Sts (critical east-west connections)
- Safety improvements to Alabama Ave. SE in Ward 8.

Building Momentum in Virginia and Maryland

After decades without a staff presence in Virginia, WABA's dedicated Virginia Organizer is forging relationships in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax with groups (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling and Virginia Bicycling Federation). We strive to provide a unified voice for safer streets in NoVA.

In Maryland, we're working for change at the state level, and have seen notable legislative victories for safe streets, including:

- Lowered speed limits;
- Bus-lane lane enforcement to allow buses and bikes to travel without obstruction;
- The Sarah Debbink Langenkamp Memorial Act, which implements more severe penalties for drivers who injure or kill bicyclists who are in bike lanes or on the shoulder at the time of the crash.

Gearin' Up Bikes

With our new Gearin' Up Bikes Program Director onboard, WABA is getting the relaunch of this beloved program off the ground:

- Still seeking a location. Our hopes of taking over the Bike Station lease from DDOT have fallen through due to a lease disagreement between DDOT and Union Station.
- Bringing Earn-a-Bike into communities. This 4-6 week program trains youth in the basics of bike mechanics, preparing them for entry level work as bike mechanics who can support local bicyclists through affordable service. WABA has 3 sessions planned and more to come, in partnership with community groups and public schools in DC and Prince George's County.

Bicycling Education

WABA is facilitating 51 bicycling classes this spring season across 6 jurisdictions:

- DC
- Montgomery County
- Arlington County
- City of Alexandria
- Prince George's County.

Classes include Youth and Adult Learn to Ride, Confident City Cycling, eBike City Cycle and Trail Basics, among others. And, our DC Bike Ambassador's first two free Basic Bike Maintenance workshops filled up in less than four hours from registration launch! To meet demand, more Basic Maintenance workshops will be held monthly as Gearin' Up Bikes gets up and running.

Upcoming Events

- May 4 —first annual Bloom Ride and Spring Picnic! Register at waba.org/bloomride
- May 17 —Bike to Work Day
- Sept. 21 — 50 States Ride
- October 3—WABA Awards
- November 2— Cider Ride