



WABA
WASHINGTON AREA
BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

July 22, 2024

Traffic and Parking Board
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: South Pickett Street Corridor Improvements (Docket Item #8)

Dear Chairperson Lewis,

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) and our more than 5,000 members across the City of Alexandria and the Washington metropolitan area to express our support for the recommended South Pickett Street Corridor Improvements, echoing the sentiments of our partners at the Alexandria Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Alexandria Families for Safe Streets (Alexandria FfSS).

The proposed improvements effectively implement the goals set forth in the City's Proposed Bicycle Network, Eisenhower West Small Area Plan, Alexandria Mobility Plan and Complete Streets Five-Year Work Plan. WABA also supports the optional crossing at Valley Forge Drive. The South Pickett Corridor Improvements will 1) save lives, 2) connect a significant bike lane gap, and 3) help address climate change.

1. **Safety:** Simply put, the proposed South Pickett Street improvements will make the street safer for all road users. At present, the street is overly wide which encourages excessive vehicle speeds and lacks safe facilities for both bicyclists and pedestrians. Narrowing the roadway and reducing the number of travel lanes will help to limit dangerous speeds while the addition of new and safer crossings and dedicated bike facilities will make this corridor easier and safer to navigate for non-car travelers.
2. **Connectivity:** The Eisenhower West Small Area Plan notes that South Pickett is an important link from Duke Street to Fairfax County. The addition of dedicated bike facilities here meaningfully expands the City's bike network and adds destinations that can be safely accessed by bike to the benefit of both residents and passersby.
3. **Sustainability:** Transportation is one of the leading causes of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. Investing in protected bike lanes significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, lowers transportation costs, and prevents roadway deaths

and serious injuries. Unfortunately, Alexandria has significant gaps in its infrastructure that discourage bicycles. South Pickett Street is one such place.

In conclusion, WABA urges the City to approve and construct the proposed bike lanes and pedestrian improvements, including the optional Valley Forge crossing. Further, we emphatically urge the City to reject the “no build” option as unsafe.

Sincerely,

Kevin O'Brien, Virginia Organizer

