

2a
9-17-11

City Council Public Hearing

Saturday, September 17, 9:30 am

Mayor Euille and Honorable City Council members,

My name is Margaret Wohler and I'm a 20-year resident of the Delray neighborhood. I recently stopped using a car, for my private transportation. Thank you for the establishment of so many clear bike lanes throughout Delray.

I'm here to suggest the establishment of a safe bike lane that connects four of the five Alexandria high schools along King Street and Braddock Road: TC Williams, Minnie Howard, Episcopal and St. Stephens.

I worked with the fledgling TC Bike Club this past summer to gather signatures on a petition supporting the creation of more bike lanes. We visited farmer's markets on Saturdays and stopped everyone we saw to talk about cycling in Alexandria, as a safe, clean, cheap, healthful, quiet and environmentally attractive transportation choice. The response was overwhelmingly favorable. We gathered 59 signatures of support.

We have also been working with the staff of Velocity Bike Co-op to implement a bike mechanics course at TC Williams; I spoke to the ACPS School Board on that topic last week.

I understand that a few Alexandria city residents do not support cycling on city streets; they fear collision and cite the inability to appropriately see, or predict, the actions of cyclists as reasons to oppose sharing the city streets with bikes. I can honestly say that, when cycling in a designated bike lane, I not only feel safer because everyone knows their place, but car drivers tend to treat me, as a fellow commuter, with greater respect. A real bike lane is Alexandria's tacit approval of cycling and makes us feel like we're supposed to be there. Most of the illegal and unsafe biking practices, like riding on the sidewalk, occur because there is no designated bike lane and the cyclists are trying to protect themselves. King Street and Braddock Road, near the schools, have plenty of room for the establishment of a 3-foot bike lane.

The creation of a bike lane for high school commuters will send the message to teenagers, who already know traffic patterns, that we support responsible cycling as a true alternative to the bus or private car. It will encourage fewer kids to drive to school, reduce traffic during rush hour, discourage group joy riding around town, and let Alexandria's students know that we are serious about green transportation options. The city's strategic plan, from June 2010, also lends support for commuter cycling: Goals #2, (health of citizens and the environment), #3 (multimodal transportation), and #4 (well-being of children and families) all can be interpreted as supporting the creation of this bike lane.

I did some research on the BikesAtWork.com website which analyzes city census data to gauge the greenness of individual cities' transportation habits. Alexandria City, in a ranking of small cities, placed 44th out of 597 cities studied. I thought that was pretty good! , but we can do better: while 20.58% of

Alexandria's residents don't drive to their jobs, only 0.55% rode a bike. Davis, California won that category, with 15% of their residents cycling to work.

Let's work together to beat Davis at their green transportation bona fides: September 22 is Car-Free Day in metro DC. I'd like to challenge the whole city council to go car free, next Thursday, and get to know your city from the seat of a bike. I guarantee: you'll like it so much that you'll be tempted to dump the car, and the traffic hassles, gas prices, poor air quality, and any obsessions you have regarding perfect hairstyles, permanently.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you about the creation of a safe bike lane to the city's high schools.

Margaret Wohler 2
9-17-11

City
Bike

Cycling in Alexandria

Pedestrian

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1. Would you support the City Council investing in more bike lanes?
 2. If Alexandria had more, safer, bike lanes would you bike more and drive less?

Name	zip code	yes or no?
1. Alex Wolfe	22302	Yes!!!
2. Sam Currier	22305	YES
3. Keptine Currier	22305	Yes
4. Tom Niedbala	22314	yes
5. Grace Reed	22301	yes
6. Kris Mann	22202	Yes
7. Rusi Aubucher	22305	yes
8. Angie mistretta	22305	yes
9. Jessie Sudo	22301	yes
10. John John	22301	yes
11. Collette Hzmuli	22305	yes
12. Brian DeRocher	22301	yes
13. SAVANNAH NORRIS	22202	yes
14. Cathryn SACRA	22301	yes

City
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Public
Hearing
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9:30

Safe Routes to School
Post-children

photo@compact.net

Mr. McGill
 World History 10th
 Cycling in Alexandria

1. Would you support the City Council investing in more bike lanes?
2. If Alexandria had more, safer, bike lanes would you bike more and drive less?

Name	zip code	yes or no?
1. Pablo Munoz	22314	YES!!!
2. Tyler Young	20008	Yes
3. John Ross	22305	Yes <u>AND</u> more bike racks
4. Margaret Wohler	22301	yes 22301
5. Scott Biernat	22202	Yes
6. Debra Eliezer	22202	Yes
7. MaryAnn Fowler	22202	yes 'yes'
8. Neal Sigmund	22202	yes
9. Dan Gray	22305	yes
10. Joren Gray	22305	yes
11. Todd Wiseman	22302	yes
12. Megan Mitchell	22204	yes
13. Brett Wohler	22301	yes
14. John Street	22301	yes
15. KEN McCoy	22041	YES
16. Gynelle Diaz	22314	yes

Cycling in Alexandria

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Name	zip code	yes or no?
1. AEGAN HUEZO	22301	<u>Yes</u>
2. JAN Baker	22310	Yes
3. Kadian Mitchell	22310	Yes
4. Laticia White	22310	yes.
5. Mary Jo Smet	22301	yes
6. Patrick McNabb	22301	Yes
6. Nick Hanson	22046	Yes
8. RANDALL P. STAFFAR	22314	YES
9. Linda Shaffer	22314	Yes
10. David Bohner	22307	yes
11. Jake Greenlun	20895	no yes
12. Sonya Bailey	22207	Yes
13. Mark Reed	22314	yes
14. Phil Wye	22302	Yes

Cycling in Alexandria

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Name	zip code	yes or no?
1. Linda Croom	22314	Yes
2. Pam O'Quinn	22314	yes
3. Dick Platt	22314	yes.
4. Karen Platt	22314	yes
5. Chris Kauer	22204	<u>YES</u>
6. Jan Grad	20010	yes
7. Amy Cox	22314	yes
8. Keturah Wells	22060	yes
9. Lillie Finklea	22314	yes
10. James Davidson	22300	Yes
11. Greg Zipp	22314	Y
12. Carlene Gong	22314	YES!
13. Mike Pottsitt	22305	Yes!
14.		



Cycling in Alexandria

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Name	zip code	yes or no?
1. Amy N. Thomas	22301	yes
2. Joan SINGER	22302	yes
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