



SPRING 2013

Masthead photo by Steven Halperson



LOCAL MOTION

WWW.ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/LOCALMOTION

GREEN YOUR COMMUTE TO EARTH DAY ON APRIL 20!

So you are an expert on turning out your lights, fixing leaky faucets, and recycling, but how about greening your commute? Here are some tips to take your commute to the next level of green, in observance of the City's Earth Day celebration:

- 1. Consider carpooling.** Perhaps a friend, neighbor, or significant other works close to you. Carpooling not only saves money on gas, it also reduces the amount of vehicle emissions in our air.
- 2. Take a bike ride or walk instead of driving,** while doing errands.

- 3. Use public transit.** The City boasts four Metrorail stations, eight Capital Bikeshare stations, great walking and biking trails, dozens of Metrobus bus stops and even more DASH bus stops. We even have a train station!
- 4. Mark your calendar for Alexandria Earth Day 2013!** This year's celebration will be held at Ben Brenman Park (4800 Brenman Park Drive) on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Children participating in Earth Day 2012



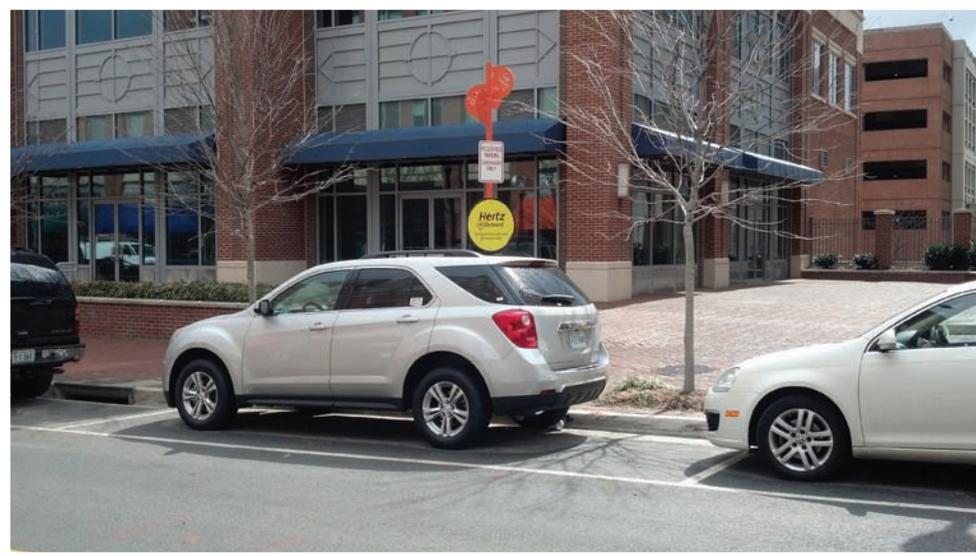
On **Friday, May 17**, Local Motion, Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) invite you to join over 10,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. Register and attend one of our three pit stops, located at **Old Town/City Hall** (301 King St.), **Carlyle Development/John Carlyle Square Park** (300 John Carlyle St.), **Mark Center Transit Center** (east side of the North Parking Garage), and receive a free T-shirt, refreshments, or be entered into a raffle for a free bicycle!

Bike to Work Day has grown into a nationwide event with bicyclists taking to the streets in an effort to get commuters to try bicycling to work as a healthy and safe alternative to driving alone. In the Metropolitan Washington region, Bike to Work Day has grown from a small group of a few hundred in 2001 to over 12,000 participants in 2012. This year Bike to Work Day will be held on Friday, May 17, rain or shine! To learn more or to register online, visit alexandriava.gov/LocalMotion.

NEW ON-STREET CARSHARE PARKING IN CARLYLE

Carsharing is a model or car rental where people rent cars for short periods of time. It is a component of Local Motion's overall effort to promote multimodal transportation options and enhance mobility throughout the City. Currently, all carshare spaces in the City are either located in private developments or in WMATA parking lots. To make carsharing more accessible in Alexandria, the City Council adopted a pilot On-

street Carshare Policy which allows the City to lease on-street parking spaces located in public right of way to private carsharing companies. The first two reserved on-street carshare spaces are in the Carlyle development and were awarded to Hertz On-Demand 24/7. Members can pick up carsharing vehicles from reserved locations at 1920 Ballenger Avenue and 2000 Ballenger Avenue.



ONLINE BIKE RACK REQUEST FORM

As part of the ongoing effort to increase bicycle parking throughout the City, Local Motion has launched a new online bike rack request form. **You tell us the location and we provide the rack.** Bicycle rack installation will be prioritized based on proximity to a Bicycle Parking Focus Area identified in the City's Transportation Master Plan, availability, feasibility, and popular demand. With hundreds



of bike racks located throughout the City, Local Motion aims to make cycling easy, and the preferred mode of travel. Being able to park a bicycle quickly, in a well lit location, near your destination, is key to making for an enjoyable ride.

For questions about this program, contact Hillary Poole at 703.746.4017, or submit a Bike Rack Request form at alexandriava.gov/BicycleParking.

LOCAL MOTION'S NEW VANSTART/VANSAVE INCENTIVE PROGRAM



Starting this summer, the City's Vanstart/Vansave program, sponsored by Local Motion, will provide short-term funding for vanpools having trouble filling all of their seats. Vanpools are typically groups of commuters who share the cost of a leased van and travel to and from a common pickup location and work location, normally operating Monday-Friday during the work week. There are two different programs: the VanStart Program, funds empty seats during the critical startup phase for new vanpools; and the VanSave Program, for existing vanpools that are experiencing problems in their passenger levels due to the loss of riders.

The programs are for anyone operating a vanpool that either parks in, or leaves from, the City of Alexandria. The vanpool must be a nonprofit organization and have a seating capacity of no less than 6 and no more than 14 (excluding the driver). The vanpool operator must certify that the van has Private Vanpool plates and is appropriately insured under a Commercial Auto Policy or Vanpool Policy and registered with the local jurisdiction's rideshare agency.

For questions about this program, contact Gabe Ortiz at 703.746.4083. Get more information about program updates via our online mailing list eNews, our Facebook page, or alexandriava.gov/LocalMotion.



DASH BIKE AND ROLL

Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) mechanics spent the past month installing new bike racks on 53 DASH buses. Now, all DASH buses have front mounted, two position bike racks so bikes can travel on the entire DASH fleet of 73 buses and five trolleys. With this great addition, DASH is an even more convenient route to any point in the City. To learn more visit www.dashbus.com/BikeNRoll.



Are you a friend of the Local Motion Facebook page? Like us today and get updated information about local transportation alternatives that save time and money, such as public transit, ridesharing, bicycling, and walking. We will also keep you informed about special programs and discounts to help reduce automobile dependence, increase mobility, and improve air quality.

[f/LocalMotionAlexandriaVA](https://www.facebook.com/LocalMotionAlexandriaVA)

SMARTBENEFITS® FOR EVERYONE!

Paper farecards are old news. Times are changing and the WMATA SmarTrip® cards are here to stay.

SmartBenefits® is a convenient, web-based program that lets employers assign the dollar value of employees' monthly commuting benefit directly to the employees' SmarTrip® cards. The SmartBenefits® program makes everything more convenient for commuters throughout the metro area.

The Carlyle Community Council (CCC) understood this and decided to take advantage of the SmartBenefits® program from WMATA. After supplying the businesses and residential properties in Carlyle with paper farecards for a number of years, the

CCC decided to use SmartBenefits® instead. Janet Gregor of the Carlyle Community Council explains, "When WMATA started encouraging use of SmarTrip® cards and imposing a \$1 per trip surcharge on use of paper farecards we decided to make the switch. SmartBenefits® offers Carlyle workers and residents more flexibility in transit options without a surcharge."

The initial feedback Gregor received from the employers and residential property owners who participate in the program has been very positive.

To find out more information about SmartBenefits® and learn how to sign up for the program, contact Local Motion at 703.746.4686.

CAPITAL BIKESHARE CORNER

Program Expansion

Capital Bikeshare (CaBi) launched in Alexandria in September 2012 with eight station locations in Old Town. Due to the program's success, it will expand to the Del Ray and Carlyle neighborhoods over the next year. To suggest a station location, please visit the Capital Bikeshare crowdsourcing map located under the "Programs" section at alexandriava.gov/LocalMotion.

A: Usually I ride between the Metro stations (Braddock and King St) and Market Square, and over to Trader Joe's and Teasm.

Q: Any tips you have for new Capital Bikeshare users?

A: Give it a try. I was reluctant to bike on streets shared with cars, especially in DC, but it gets more comfortable with practice. I highly recommend WABA's Bike Education classes.

To see what City of Alexandria/WABA courses are offered in Alexandria, visit www.waba.org/education/index.php.

Interview with a Capital Bikeshare Member

Q: How long have you been a Capital Bikeshare member?

A: I joined in October 2011 when the system launched

Q: What do you like about using Capital Bikeshare?

A: Flexibility! I can get around Alexandria by walking, taking a bus or the trolley or biking, as my mood and weather permits.

Q: Where do you ride Capital Bikeshare in Alexandria?



Using CaBi

There are five options to access the bikes: 24-hour, 3-day, 30-day, annual or annual installment. After joining, you get the first 30 minutes of each trip free and pay an additional fee for every 30 minute period thereafter. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/LocalMotion.



Mark Center Update

As of August 2012, the Department of Defense had completed its final relocation phase, and approximately 5,900 employees have been transferred to the BRAC 133 facility at Mark Center.

The Mark Center (BRAC 133) Transportation Management Plan (TMP) has two overarching goals to reduce vehicular traffic on the neighboring community. The first goal, maintain a 40 percent or more non-single occupancy vehicle mode share, was exceeded by 11 percent as of August 2012. Based on survey data, many employees telework and ride shuttles, or take buses to commute.

The second goal, facilitate tenant mobility through a viable transportation program, continues to be achieved by the on-site TMP Office available to all employees of the facility through variety of communication and promotional strategies.

In addition to short- and mid-term improvements, the Commonwealth of Virginia has allocated \$80 million for the construction of a reversible High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Transit ramp on I-395 at Seminary Road.

For the latest news about the I-395 corridor near the Mark Center, including details about the HOV/Transit ramp, visit the Virginia Megaprojects website at vamegaprojects.com.

The CHOICE is YOURS!

Refuse to pay high fuel prices. Choose to bike, walk, rideshare, and use public transit to save time and money.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Go to alexandriava.gov/LocalMotion for more event details.



- APRIL 20** Alexandria Earth Day
- 21** Adult Learn to Ride Cycling Class
- 21** Confident City Cycling
- MAY 11** Adult Learn to Ride Cycling Class
- 17** Bike to Work Day
- JUNE 15** Adult Learn to Ride Cycling Class
- 15** Confident City Cycling
- 22** Adult Learn to Ride Cycling Class
- JULY 6** Alexandria Birthday Celebration
- SEPT 22** Car Free Day

NOTE: The Transportation Commission meets at City Hall, Council Work Room (second floor) at 7 p.m., on the first Wednesday of each month (except August). The Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meets at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. at 7 p.m., on the third Monday of each month.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Public transit users walk an average of 19 minutes getting to and from public transportation.
- Countries with lower rates of obesity tend to have higher rates of commuters who walk or bike to work.
- The risk of obesity increases 6 percent with every additional mile spent in the car, and decreases 5 percent with every kilometer walked.
- Lengthy commutes cost \$100 billion each year in excess fuel costs and lost productivity.
- More than 30,000 people died in car wrecks in 2010.
- Strong seatbelt and child safety laws resulted in a 25 percent decrease in car accident deaths since 2005.
- Forty percent of all car trips in America are two miles or less.
- Our current transportation system also contributes to physical inactivity—each additional hour spent in a car per day is associated with a 6 percent increase in the likelihood of obesity.
- Currently, more than 80 percent of the nation’s workers drive or ride in a car to work.

Source: “Better Transportation Options = Healthier Lives,” Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

