

# ***City of Alexandria Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Plan*** **Summary**



## **Goal**

The City of Alexandria is working to reduce dependence on private automobiles and provide Alexandrians with transportation choices. One way we can accomplish these goals is to improve access for persons with disabilities, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

The City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Plan will provide a blueprint for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements over the next 10 years as funds become available. Most of the recommendations will be implemented as a part of other upcoming projects (e.g., roadway repaving, streetscape improvements, corridor reconstruction, etc.)

Implementation of the Plan will result in safer conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists and make walking and bicycling more attractive transportation choices in Alexandria.

## **Planning Context**

This detailed, citywide study and public outreach effort builds on the policy-level recommendations in the 2007 Transportation Master Plan. It provides a roadmap to implement the Master Plan and will be incorporated into small area plans and site plans. This project will also be incorporated into the City's Neighborhood Traffic Calming and Safe Routes to School programs. It furthers the goals of our Community Pathways initiative and the Spin City 2009 effort to become a bicycle-friendly community.

## **Project Focus**

The City is taking an in-depth look at its entire pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Using background data and an assessment of existing conditions, the City will recommend accessibility improvements for those with mobility impairments, improvements to pedestrian facilities to promote connectivity and access to transit, and bicycle facility improvements to better connect residents with activity centers. While improvements will be recommended throughout the City, detailed field analysis and recommendations will be concentrated in Priority Assessment Areas, which have been selected using the following criteria:

- Locations with high levels of pedestrian and bicycle activity, including areas with high numbers of persons with disabilities. These include locations near parks, schools, retail, multi-use trails, institutional locations (e.g., libraries and post offices), etc.
- Proximity to transit (e.g., heavily-used bus stops, rail stations, locations frequently served by paratransit).
- Pedestrian and bicycle facility safety (e.g., locations of pedestrian and bicycle crash concentrations; access barriers identified through inventory).
- Roadways that are: 1) scheduled to be repaved in the near future 2) not part of an area that will undergo large-scale redevelopment and/or 3) in parts of the City where there is more potential for redevelopment of individual properties.
- Socioeconomic equity and geographic distribution.
- Public priorities for pedestrian and bicycle data collection.

## **Public Involvement Opportunities**

The project team will meet with key City-recognized committees including the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, the Park and Recreation Commission and the Traffic & Parking Board in February 2007. The first Public Meeting will be held in March 2007. An online survey and a

Visit [www.AlexRide.org](http://www.AlexRide.org) for more information or take the plan survey

paper survey on buses will be made available throughout March 2007 to give citizens an opportunity to provide input on the Plan. City representatives will also be available to meet with specific Civic Associations and Community Organizations by request during the process. The City will use the Transportation Alternatives eNewsletter to distribute additional information. A second Public Meeting will be held to present the preliminary recommendations of the Plan in Summer 2007.



### **Project Support and Implementation**

This project is funded by a State Transportation Planning pilot grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. Toole Design Group of Hyattsville, Maryland will assist the City in this initiative. Many of the recommendations in this plan will be incorporated into other City programs or accomplished during regular maintenance. In some locations, we will work with developers to make improvements. However, the City is also spending more than \$3.6 million in grant-funded and local projects that will improve the pedestrian and bicycle network in Alexandria.

### **Project Schedule and Deliverables**

#### *Gather Background Information (January 2007)*

- Hold Kick-Off Meeting with City staff to develop public involvement strategies and review existing data

#### *Existing Facilities Inventory (January to March 2007)*

- Develop field data collection methodology
- Collect detailed information on pedestrian facilities, shared-use paths and Bicycle Level of Service data on City bicycle routes

#### *Public Participation (January to June 2007)*

- Gather citizen input at two public meetings, through an online survey and from transit riders through a paper survey on DASH buses
- Meet with major stakeholder groups
- Meet with the internal City Working Group on a monthly basis

#### *Pedestrian Facility Improvements (March to April 2007)*

- Recommend sidewalk and pedestrian crossing improvements
- Make specific recommendations in Priority Assessment Areas and general recommendations in other parts of the City

#### *Transit Access Improvements (March to April 2007)*

- Recommend pedestrian and bicycle access and customer amenity improvements for transit stops

#### *Bicycle Facility Improvements (March to April 2007)*

- Recommend bicycle facility improvements and assess bicycle suitability on roadways included in the 1998 Bicycle Transportation and Multi-Use Trail Master Plan

#### *Implementation Plan (May 2007)*

- Prioritize pedestrian, transit access, and bicycle facility recommendations and develop an implementation schedule for infrastructure projects, maintenance activities, and education, encouragement, and enforcement programs

#### *Final Draft Plan (Summer 2007)*

- Prepare text, graphics, and maps for the Final Draft Plan and post Final Draft Plan document online

Visit [www.AlexRide.org](http://www.AlexRide.org) for more information or take the plan survey