



November 18, 2013

Thomas "Jay" Johnson, Jr.  
Chair, Traffic & Parking Board  
City of Alexandria  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Bicycle Lanes on King Street**

Dear Chairman Johnson:

I am writing on behalf of the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission to request that you support establishing traffic calming and continuous bike lanes on King Street, including the segment of King Street between West Cedar Street and Janneys Lane. In addition to better providing for safety for all modes of transportation, the project would help to achieve the City's Eco-City multi-modal transportation goals by improving access to King Street Metro in this important corridor. The project is also a key extension of recent efforts, including Capital Bikeshare, to encourage use of non-motorized transportation whenever feasible.

Alexandria is working to meet aggressive greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, as contained in the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan adopted by City Council in 2011. Meeting these goals requires significantly reducing transportation-related emissions, which comprise over 30 percent of our community's greenhouse gas emissions. Alexandria must join cities across the country and the region in making bicycle and pedestrian transportation access the rule, rather than the exception. EPC believes that this will be much better accomplished by establishing full bike lanes than requiring cyclists to join the same lane as fast-moving cars and trucks. Requiring cyclists and drivers to switch between separate bike and car lanes to a shared lane would heighten the risk to cyclists and motorists.

Importantly, making biking and walking safe and convenient will encourage use of active transportation which can help reduce obesity and associated health care issues among our citizens. The strategic location of this project makes it an important link for access both transit and T.C. Williams High School. Full bike lanes will enable more of our high school students to safely bike to school.

EPC believes the benefits of this project, as originally proposed, would far outweigh the limited adverse impact in terms of parking convenience, not necessity, it would have for a very small number of households. By approving full bike lanes for King Street, the Traffic and Parking Board can make Alexandria safer and more livable for the entire community, helping residents throughout the area live healthier and economically productive lives while reducing their impact on the environment. The King Street Traffic Calming and Bike Lanes Project is a critical step in meeting Alexandria's commitment as an Eco-City. We request that you support the full extent of King Street bike lanes as originally proposed between W. Cedar Street and Janneys Lane.

*(over)*

Thank you for your consideration, and for your work on behalf of all Alexandria.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Scott Barstow', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Barstow  
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission

cc: City Council