



**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Park and Recreation Commission

December 10, 2013

Rich Baier, Director
Transportation and Environmental Services
Alexandria, Va. 22314

Re: Lower King Street Bike Lanes

Dear Director Baier:

Thank you for coming to the last Park & Recreation Commission meeting to give our members a short briefing on the proposed bike lanes on King St. from Janneys Lane to the bottom of the King St. Hill near the Amtrak Station. We understand the recent compromise retaining some parking with a dedicated bike lane each side of the auto travel lanes represents a reasoned response to the homeowners abutting a part of the route who wish to preserve on-street parking.

As presented to the Park & Recreation Commission the majority of our members concurred that the compromise configuration is a very positive step forward toward promoting more bicycle use in this part of the City, and will make this heavily travelled route safer both now and into the future.

After you departed, the Commission had a presentation from staff on the most recent iteration of the Recreational Needs Assessment. This 2013 assessment update, coincidentally, documents that 13% of the (statistically valid) survey respondents use bikes to travel to parks and recreational centers, 53% reported they have a need for bike trails and 33% of the City's households report that for them bike trails are the most important facilities offer by the City, weighing-in only behind walking trails and natural areas.

As the Commission stated last evening, the plan that is being considered now should be weighed with an eye to the potential future use bicyclists, not only to accommodate today's needs. We all hope that 10 years hence there will be much increased bike traffic along this corridor and throughout the City. We are "The Eco-City" and as such we should be doing all we can to get people out of their cars and on foot or bikes, but we must plan for increased safety as we do so. This plan seems to accomplish that goal while responding in as much as is possible to neighborhood concerns about off-street parking.

The Park and Recreation Commission voted in favor of supporting this compromise plan. We ask that pass this communication on to the appropriate board for consideration.

With kind regard,

Judy R. Guse-Noritake, Chair
Park & Recreation Commission

Cc: Park & Recreation Commission

