



Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

May 3, 2012

Richard Baier, Director
Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Room 4100
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Baier:

At its meeting on April 17, 2012, the Alexandria Waterfront Commission discussed the location of the proposed Waterfront-area bikeshare station. This letter summarizes the Commission's position on this matter.

The Waterfront Commission supports the introduction of the Capital Bikeshare program in Alexandria in general and in Old Town in particular. Bikeshare will promote mobility by providing new options for traveling between Old Town's Metrorail stations and various attractions, including the Waterfront. We support the placement of a bikeshare station in the Waterfront core area, between Oronoco Street in the north and Duke Street in the south.

We are concerned, however, with the specific, proposed location of the bikeshare station on Cameron Street Alley, between the Torpedo Factory Art Center and the office building at 201 North Union Street. This alley is an extension of the red-brick pavers of Torpedo Plaza, an area where bicycling is prohibited. Placement of a bikeshare station in this location could encourage users to bike eastward towards the river, directly into the no-bike zone around the Alexandria City Marina. This could be mitigated to some extent through signage, but we believe the most effective way to minimize confusion to bikeshare users and other bicyclists is to locate the station elsewhere.

We understand that bikeshare stations must receive a minimum number of hours of direct sunlight daily (to provide sufficient solar power to the station), and should be situated outside of areas prone to regular flooding. The Waterfront bikeshare station should also be convenient to key attractions in the Waterfront core area, including Founders Park, the City Marina, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Lower King Street, and Waterfront Park. With these conditions in mind, we have identified several alternative locations for Waterfront area bikeshare stations:

- The Beachcombers parking lot at Prince Street at The Strand
- The unit block of Duke Street
- The unit block of Oronoco Street

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We encourage staff to review these options as well as additional alternatives for the Waterfront bikeshare station. We look forward to working with you to evaluate potential locations.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer these recommendations. On behalf of the Alexandria Waterfront Commission and the broad Citywide constituencies we represent, thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan M. Macek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nathan M. Macek, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Commission

CC: Kevin Posey, Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission
Faroll Hamer, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
James Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Emily Baker, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
Sandra Marks, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
Carrie Sanders, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
Nancy Williams, Department of Planning and Zoning
Jack Browand, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Cheryl Lawrence, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Jim Hixon, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
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